CVIANEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXVI

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SUMMER 2013

Get Face Time With Your Supervisor On June 22

Supervisor London Breed will hold "office hours" in Cole Valley at The Ice Cream Bar (815 Cole St.) on Saturday, June 22. There are no advance appointments, just show up between 10 and noon.



At the 107th Anniversary of the 1906 earthquake, Supervisor London Breed is flanked (left) by Mayor Lee and Chief Hayes-White (right) Supervisors Chiu and Wiener.

Each person will have a 15-minute time period on a first come, first served basis. Arrive early to avoid disappointment. CVIA has found Supervisor Breed to be knowledgeable, responsive and willing to help with problems in an even-handed manner.

No Ordinary Garden

The Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC), whose recycling center (780 Frederick) was recently removed from Golden Gate Park, is waging a campaign against Rec and Park's



Former Recycling Center site has been cleared in preparation for a community garden. Allotments will go to those who have signed up.

long standing plan for a community garden at the location. In their April and May newsletters, they claim that Rec and Park has escalated the cost of the garden to \$1.6 million—six times the \$250,000 amount originally mentioned—and that space will be leased to private companies to showcase their gardening products.

Continued on page 2, column 2.

Park Entrance at Stanyan and Haight: Time to Take Action

A neighborhood-wide group of individuals concerned about the over-use and mis-use of public park space in the Alvord Lake area has been meeting periodically since January, 2012. The group is focused on rehabilitating, re-designing and re-purposing the eastern end of Golden Gate Park, so that it will better serve the surrounding neighborhoods and city visitors. It has been known for a long time that simply relying upon the SFPD to clear up the problem is not a long term solution. Monthly planting efforts led first by Karen Crommie, and now Susan Strolis, have made a dent in improving the area's beauty despite the lingering problems of drug dealing, drug use and abuse of the land.

The Alvord Lake area (from Waller to JFK Drive) is in a sorry state of decay. The large planter at the Haight and Stanyan entrance



Photo: Susan Strou

Volunteers remove dried algae from drained lake—a recurring task.

provides a home to rats, a storage location for drugs and illicit materials, and a barrier behind which itinerants hide from being seen from the street.

When the Friends of Alvord Lake (FoAL) formed in February, the first action item it gave to Rec and Park was to request an overhaul of the entrance design which would eliminate the planter and bring a more community-friendly concept to life at Haight and Stanyan. Rec and Park project manager Marien Coss was introduced at the April meeting of FoAL. She will be working with the group as plans go forward. A slide show was presented showing the Pennsylvania Garden (on Potrero Hill) as a further community planting project in concept for revitalizing the north meadow area in Alvord

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Lake (north of Page St.). Finally, members agreed that the floor beneath the old oaks (near the Waller Street skate park and multiuse area) are in crisis from the beating the root systems take by campers. Unless action is taken to save them now, they are certain to succumb to the years of abuse by the transient population there.

The next FoAL meeting will be in late May or early June. Please contact Ted Loewenberg (tedlsf@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to participate in the process of improving the Alvord Lake area for residents and visitors, alike. It's a project that will take years to complete, and "a village" to make it successful.

—Ted Loewenberg

Change in Course at Bay to Breakers on May 19

Along with representatives of other District 5 neighborhood groups bordering the course, CVIA recently met with Bay to Breakers general manager Angela Fang and operations director George Ridgely in the office of Supervisor London Breed. In light of the incidents that occurred at the Boston Marathon, they assured those present that they are reviewing safety and emergency protocol with city officials and will make adjustments to their plans as needed.

They also announced a slight re-routing of this year's course. Starting as usual from Main and Howard, it will continue its historic



There will be no after-party at the 102nd Bay to Breakers.

course until Bernice Rodgers Way in golden Gate Park at which point runners will zig-zag southeast to Marin Luther King Jr. Drive, then west on to Lincoln Way and north onto the Great highway. The finish line will be just north of Lincoln Way. (Finishers will be facing north.)

There will *not* be a post-race festival in Golden Gate Park this year. All post-race activities will take place at the Finish Area and will cease at 1:00 p.m.

Muni and Bauer shuttles will queue and load along the east-bound side of Fulton Street, between the Great Highway and 46th Avenue.

The placement of fencing along the course will begin at midnight and continue through the early hours of race day. For registration and more information go to Baytobreakers.com.

—Karen Crommie

Community Garden (continued from page 1, column 1.)

At a recent HANC meeting, Rec and Park's Dawn Kamalanathan said that the solicitation of private money was only one of a series of "ideas" for securing money to fund the garden. In the meantime, Andrea Jadwin (Inner Sunset Park Neighbors) reported that the total cost for the garden was never \$250K. She says, "The \$250,000 was for Phase I—raised beds and some infrastructure. When the citizen advisory committee met back in 2011, Rec and Park was estimating upwards of a million dollars for Marvin's (Landscape Architect Marvin Yee) full scale plan. **Because this is not just a simple community garden**—it has many unique features like a material resource yard, an educational area, demonstration gardens, etc. One of our conerns was how to find additional funding for these items. After that, the advisory group went defunct because Rec and Park couldn't get access to the property and any efforts made by the group to find financing stopped."

—Karen Crommie

Bike Rental Stand Gets Green Light for Expanded Hours

The Board of Supervisors' budget and finance sub-committee on May 8 approved the Parkwide lease amendment allowing ParkWide bike rentals to expand their current bike rental operations to Alvord Lake and Ocean Beach to help to activate the area and provide an

amenity to the public.

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It is hoped that park visitors renting bikes at Alvord Lake will mitigate the concentration of itinerant youth.

After a 6-month trial period, the presence of a commercial operation at that problematic entrance to Golden Gate Park at Stanyan and Haight mitigated, albeit slightly, the massing of indigent youth who routinely take over the entrance. A nearby Stanyan Street bike shop that

has for years included a rental service objected to what they thought was unfair competition, but discussions reached a compromise so that Parkwide will be able to operate at that location five days a week beginning in June.

-Karen Crommie

Direct Link to On-duty Officers

Park station's Captain Greg Corrales wants to improve communication between the police and the neighbors. And to do that he has created an interesting plan to make the Sergeants in charge of each of the four separate areas ("sectors") within the Park District available for community contact. If you have any questions or concerns about police operations, Captain Corrales encourages you to email the assigned sergeant and send a copy to him for monitoring the response.

Here's how it works: The 24 hour day is divided into three (slightly overlapping) shifts—6 a.m to 4 p.m., 3 p.m to 1 a.m and 9 p.m to 7 a.m. Three shifts times four "sectors" equals 12 sergeants. The sectors are called 3F1, 3F2, 3F3 and 3F4. A sector map and a list of the sergeants' email addresses is at the end of Captain Corrales weekly newsletter. To subscribe, send a request to sfpdparkstation@sfgov.org.

—Lena Emmery

"4/20" Neighborhood Mayhem

I am grateful that San Francisco—and Sharon Meadows in Golden Gate Park in particular—remain a mecca for peaceful celebration and free expression. Unfortunately, this year's April 20th (4/20) celebration presented a variety of problems for the city and the Haight Ashbury community, and I am concerned that on its current trajectory the event may not remain peaceful.

Traffic came to a standstill for most of Saturday as cars swarmed the area. Crowds strained police, Muni, and park resources, overwhelmed residential streets, and in several instances damaged public and private property. Garbage overflowed from curbside cans that proved unequal to the occasion. And on Sunday, April 21, staff and volunteers with the Recreation and Parks Department had to laboriously collect over 10,000 pounds of litter left in the park, not to mention the trash collected by the Department of Public Works in the upper and lower Haight.

This was not a permitted event, and we are unable to charge anyone for the city's expenses. If the event is to run smoothly in the future, we will incur even more expenses. Clearly, there was a need for porta-potties, garbage cans, fencing, more Muni buses, parking control officers to keep traffic moving, and more police officers to protect property and maintain the peace. All of these things cost money and should not come at the taxpayers' expense.



Supervisor London Breed was dismayed to find San Francisco woefully unprepared for the impact of this not-so-spontaneous event.

Fundamentally though, I have serious concerns about the appropriateness of the event. I spent the last decade working with children, many of whom come from families scarred by drug abuse. I am not comfortable with an event that encourages such rampant drug use by adults and minors alike. Non-medical marijuana use, and smoking of any kind on park property, is still illegal.

Any event of this magnitude, with an estimated 10-15,000 participants, should be organized and require a city permit. We should make every effort to at least prohibit underage marijuana use. We must ensure a peaceful and safe event for residents and attendees. With no clear organizer, no structure and no accountability this year, we are fortunate there were no major injuries.

We have just under a year until the next "4/20," which will also fall on a weekend and draw the attendant crowds. It is time we start planning. I will be working closely with neighborhood groups, the Municipal Transportation Agency, and the Police, Rec and Park, and Public Works departments to develop a plan.

I want to thank Park Station's Captain Greg Corrales and his officers, as well as the staff and volunteers at Rec and Park for

their diligence in cleaning up the park. We cannot leave this burden solely on their shoulders next "4/20."

-London Breed, District 5 Supervisor

Captain Corrales Takes Blame

I would like to offer my apology for the unacceptable event that took place at Sharon Meadow Saturday (April 20). As the commanding officer of the Park Police District, I bear the sole responsibility



for any and all crime issues that take place in my district. I can assure you that I personally found the event as distasteful as anyone.

Despite my zero tolerance philosophy for marijuana crimes, I have the responsibility to prioritize the use of my resources. I vowed that the violence that took place at last year's event, and on Haight Street at the conclusion of last year's event, would not be repeated this year. There was virtually no violence as a result of Saturday's pagan gathering. We did manage to arrest seven criminals for selling drugs to undercover officers and over thirty traffic citations were issued. My staff and I are already working on improving our efforts for next year's event. We will work very hard to improve the situation.

-Captain Greg Corrales

Pulitzer Prize Winner Adam Johnson at The Booksmith

Not only has Adam Johnson won this year's Pulitzer Prize for "The Orphan Master's Son," but he is also the recipient of a Gug-

genheim fellowship and the National Book Critics Circle Award's finalist citation. A creative writing teacher at Stanford University, his fiction has appeared in Esquire, The Paris Review, Harper's, Granta and Playboy, as well as "The Best American Short Stories." His other works include "Emporium," a short story collection and the novel "Parasites Like Us."

Reading and talking with him at The Booksmith (1644 Haight St.) on Friday, May 24 will be Anthony Marra,



Adam Johnson

author of the remarkable debut novel, "A Constellation of Vital Phenomena." The event begins at 7:30 p.m. Learn more about store events at www.booksmith.com.

A New Community Resource: Nextdoor.com

Guess what? Your next neighborhood social mixer is online now. In the city, I'm always excited to meet a new neighbor. Sometimes, you just want to see if anyone else is bothered by blue box pilfering, if there are local playgroups for your children, or if someone has a reliable handyman. Now, you can find all of this and more online with Nextdoor.com.

Consider Nextdoor.com as a Facebook-Craigslist mash-up for your neighborhood. Nextdoor's mission is "to use technology to help neighbors build stronger and safe neighborhoods."

How does it work?

Residents sign up and are categorized into zones within the city's neighborhoods. For example, if you live in Cole Valley, you can go to West Cole Valley or The Haight which includes hundreds of residential addresses. You are able to see communications from surrounding zones—Nextdoor calls these "Nearby Neighborhoods" – that make up much of the Hayes Valley, Lower Haight, Inner Sunset, etc.

Why is this different from other social websites?

People posting have to use their real names and verify their actual addresses in the neighborhood. In addition, it is a private website, which means that your post will not come up on a Google search.

What am I looking at, exactly?

I look at posts from residents that cover a variety of topics that I can adjust via my account preference settings. I can "like" a post, or thank someone for sharing information with a simple click of a button.

With a list of categories, you can navigate to a specific type of post. You can also narrow or expand how many posts you're seeing by switching between your micro-neighborhood, your nearby neighborhoods, and all of San Francisco.

It's easy to create a post – as easy as making a Facebook status update. You can post a message directly from the Home Page or select the category first and then click on "Add new."

-Amy Blakeley

CVIA Board Picks Slate of Nominees for 2012-13

The following CVIA board members have been nominated to hold offices in 2012-13. Voting will be held on August 24 during the annual meeting at Kezar Bar and Restaurant (900 Cole St.). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

President	Carole Glosenger
Vice President	Amy Blakeley
Treasurer	Joan Downey
Secretary	Karen Crommie

Nominees need to have been a member of the CVIA Board of Directors for one year. There is one place available on the Board at the present time. Any person living in the Greater Haight Ashbury who has been a CVIA member for over a year is eligible to apply. Please contact CVIASF@aol.com.

The Upper Haight Farmers' Market is in full operation on Wednesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. through October 30 at Stanyan and Waller Streets.

Leaving Items on the Sidewalk is Epidemic in Haight

As a fellow neighbor of the Haight and Community Liaison for the San Francisco Department of Public Works, I wanted to share this brief message about leaving items on the sidewalk.

Disposing of household items on the sidewalk is illegal and contributes to litter and garbage in our neighborhood. I know there



Whether using the excuse of "sharing" or just avoiding a trip to the dump, leaving items on the sidewalk creates an atmosphere of squalor.

is a culture of sharing and wanting to give your no longer needed household items to passersby, but more often than not these items become damaged and not actually re-used.

I've also seen, in my own apartment building, broken down furniture sitting outside the Recology bins. If it doesn't fit in the bin, it will not get picked up and if you leave it on the sidewalk, DPW crews will pickup, but at an expense to all residents.

Please visit this DPW website to learn about the resources available in discarding household and bulky items at little to no cost. http://www.sfdpw.org/index.aspx?page=1368

-Jerad Weiner (from The Haight)

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Greg Corrales 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 are held at Park Station's Community Room, (1899 Waller)

June 11, July 9 and August 13

Mark Your Calendars

SAVE THE DATE!
CVIA SUMMER SOCIAL
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
KEZAR BAR & GRILL, 960 COLE
2 - 4 P.M. \$10 PER PERSON

Is Job Economy to Blame for More Homeless Youth?

I recently had the opportunity to ask the city's homelessness czar Bevan Dufty (officially, the Director of Housing Opportunity) a question I've always had about the kids lining Haight Street, and more recently the Castro, in various states of intoxication and apparent poverty, a) whether the majority of these kids are actually, chronically homeless, or whether they're just "campers," so to speak, from Mendocino, wealthy enclaves in Marin, or elsewhere in the state, who are just taking an under-funded vacation from their lives; and b) whether they are actually seeking city and non-profit services, or whether they're just hanging out for a couple of weeks on their way to other cities, if and when they can cobble a few hundred dollars together.

Dufty said that, "Within the Haight there is a dual dynamic. Some of these kids come to the neighborhood and they're heading to other places—Portland, Seattle, you name it—and they're incidental to the overall problem." But he points to the fact that the Upper Haight office of Homeless Youth Alliance (HYA) is packed every day with kids aged 13 to 29 who are seeking help, be it in the form of emotional support, mental health services, or needle exchange.



Do the street kids need more services or tough love?

The organization recognizes that the Haight "has become an international destination for youth who come seeking refuge from abusive families, alienating foster care, group home situations, and juvenile justice system involvement."

Furthermore, he says his office is trying to connect HYA with Community Housing Partnership (CHP), and some bonus-round funding they've applied for under the McKinney Act which could potentially bring in \$19 million toward a youth-oriented housing facility. Dufty is working out the details of a potential master lease on a 44-unit building in SoMa which he foresees as being able to provide semi-permanent and transitional housing to homeless kids, like the ones HYA serves, who don't fit well into the city's homeless programs and other transitional housing.

"I see this as a really mobile population," Dufty says, referring to the less addicted or disabled members of the younger homeless population who have the potential to find jobs—say, in the Twitter cafeteria, and ultimately improve their situations.

"The public only sees what's wrong," Dufty says. "They see transient kids lingering on the street and wonder why nothing's being done about it. But I see much more than that. I see all the hard work I and my staff and these other organizations are doing, and I see that there's a barrier to getting some of these kids the assistance they need, and I think there's hope."

Granted, he admits that one 44-unit building isn't going to solve the whole problem, but it will set an example for the rest of this population if they see 50 or more of their friends housed and working with a program to get their lives on track.

All this still doesn't answer my other burning question of whether there's been an uptick in the numbers of homeless youth on S.F. streets. Dufty says he doesn't feel comfortable speculating until the new homeless census numbers come out later this month.

I would argue that there has to be some trickle-down effect happening when even the most well off, educated, and together college graduates are struggling to find jobs. Last year it was estimated that 53 percent of recent college graduates were un- or under-employed, and that's really from no fault of their own. Many of them, of course, are living at home or otherwise living off their parents' dimes, but that's not possible for everyone, and at the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum, where college wasn't even possible and where other issues enter the picture, the result, we'd speculate, is being seen in microcosm on the streets of San Francisco. Weather-wise this is an attractive place to pause. And temperament-wise, this is a city that's always tolerated a certain amount of transience—not to mention celebrated at times, a lack of ambition and the right to just be. As psychiatrist Mike Toohey, who volunteered for HYA for many years, always asked, by way of an icebreaker with new sessions with HYA youth, "How many of you came here for the free love?

−Jay C. Barmann

Reprinted with permission from sfist.com, 3/14/13

Say "No" to Longer Bar Hours

In a letter sent to Senator Mark Leno on March 24, CVIA opposed Senate Bill 635, his legislation permitting an extension of legal hours to sell alcohol.

"Do not forget your friends in the Haight Ashbury and Cole Valley. We live in Neighborhood Commercial Districts where our residences are cheek by jowl with bars. The noise, peeing and vomit generated between the hours of midnight and 2:00 a.m. are



Senator Mark Leno's bill to permit service of alcohol between 2 and 4 a.m. failed in committee but will be reconsidered.

something we have to live with. A morning ritual for many of us is hosing off our sidewalk. Please do not inflict an extended drinking period on San Francisco neighborhoods.

"Alcohol is a plague in San Francisco. Destruction of property, domestic violence, vandalism and automobile accidents are only part of the aftermath. You have done many things to promote social justice and better the lives of those living in our city and state. Now is not the time to destroy that goodwill by persisting with SB635."

What Happens When a Parklet Becomes a Dead Zone?

At a meeting of the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association (our sister group in the Haight) members discussed the parklet in front of Martin Mack's bar at 1568 Haight Street. Built of red brick, the area has gone unused mainly because alcohol is not permitted in parklets. Magnolia Pub's parklet is also underused for the same reason. Responding to a request by HAIA president Ted Loewenberg, Supervisor London Breed's office found the following information on filing a complaint and requesting removal of a structure

"The City has the right to revoke a parklet sponsor's permit at any time. Parklet permits are renewed every year by DPW around January and February. If a parklet is causing a lot of consternation with the community, DPW will review parklets that have received complaints over the year and hold a public hearing before re-issuing the permit. So unless there is a gross violation, revocation would likely take place at the annual renewal time.

"If someone wishes to contest a permit for an existing parklet, they need to register a formal complaint by sending a letter to the DPW's Bureau of Street Use and Mapping dpw@sfdpw.org. DPW hearings are open to the public. Neighbors opposed to the project can attend and testify."



Thank You For Your Support



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 last year, which costs CVIA \$900 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a sizeable discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from Santa on Cole. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity in 2012-13.

Jessica Justino & Bill Hancock, Brittny Bottorff, Les Silverman & Irv Govan, Rita & Richard Felciano, Abby & David Rumsey, Penny Duan & Steve Chaffin, Rosemary Southwood, Whitney & Mark Gilkey, Virginia Joosen, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Eileen Lemus, Connie Kullburg, Wallis & Michelle Lim, Mark Brennan, Linda Erkelens, Cecile & Jeff Boddington, Michael J. Sullivan, Lena Emmery & Charles Canepa, Marianne Hesse, Karen & David Crommie, David Keller, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Gina Centoni, Juliet Pries, John Manning, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Virginia & Kenneth Brown, 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, Todd & Dag Frederick, Chris Broderick, Marion Elliott, Nancy Hutt, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Susan & Steven Rosen, Mary Ann Wolcott, Stuart Gasner & Kate Ditzler, Marion Elliott, Robert Bakewell, Tracy & Patrick Jennings, Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram, Mark & Janet Hall, Gerardo Joffe, Elaine Robinson, Judith Bishop, Megan and Bruce Bourne, Bill O'Such & Ineke Ruhland, Sam Truslow, Deborah Van Atta, Maryann Hrichak, Barbara Mow, Monica and Jeremy Becker, Minette Gutfreund, Thomas Ports & Catherine Covey, Beth & Beau Harrington, Robert Page, Sigrid Schafmann, Haight Ashbury Nursery School, Beth & Rick Thurber, Joseph Padula.

New Smartphone App Eases Reporting of Code Violations

City Attorney Dennis Herrera has launched a new smartphone app that offers San Francisco residents an easy way to report and



City Attorney Dennis Herrera

track non-emergency code enforcement and nuisance issues. Herrera's Code Enforcement Team has long maintained a telephone hotline to enable neighborhood residents to report violations of housing, building, police and other local and state health and safety codes, but with the popu-

larity of smartphones, the new mobile app leverages the latest in communication technology to improve government responsiveness and transparency.

It's called UP2CODE smartphone app and web widget (web page) and was developed to interact with SF311, San Francisco's citywide call and information center. The app utilizes mobile phone camera and global positioning system, or GPS, technology to streamline and coordinate code violation reporting with corresponding city departments.

Data collected is used to better build code violation lawsuits, collect evidence and speed up remedies of nuisance code violations. It will help other city leaders, department heads and agencies better identify and prioritize code enforcement issues. In an effort to strive for transparency in city government, much of the data collected is accessible to app users in near-real-time. Reported violations are viewable on interactive maps, as is the status of each individual report. Users can



Up2Code is available in both iPhone and Android versions.

even use advance features to set up "watch areas"—from a single block to an entire neighborhood—to monitor all reports within a specific geographic area.

Says Herrera, "It encourages residents to be proactive by using the on-the-go smartphone app to combine efforts to improve neighborhoods and protect health and safety. Thank you to the community groups who helped test the app last year and provided feedback that refined the app. It's one tool we can all use to make San Francisco a safer and more beautiful place to call home.

For more information (including important safety tips), social media plug-ins, and to use the web widget, visit: http://www.UP-2CODE.org.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know at CVIASF@aol.com

Irrational Reaction to UCSF's Management of Sutro Forest

After numerous public meetings and exhaustive expert testimony, UCSF is still being accused of clear cutting Sutro Forest. "Contrary to rumors being circulated, there is no plan to cut down 30,000 trees in the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve, and it is unfortunate that this misinformation continues to spread," wrote UCSF's Barbara Bagot-Lopez on February 20.

As reported in prior issues, before a management plan is designed for the entire Mt. Sutro Open Space Reserve, four demonstration projects totaling less than 7.5 acres have been chosen—with substantial community involvement—to evaluate different tech-



Mt. Sutro Stewards gave input to UCSF as they developed their long range management plan for the forest.

niques, such as appropriate tree spacing, undergrowth removal, and native plant restoration. The goal is to improve forest health and to maintain a safe environment for visitors, neighbors and the campus community, as well as to protect nearby homes and other buildings from a potential wildfire.

As naturalist Jake Sigg wrote in a recent newsletter, "UC owns the land, and it requires management. There is no way it can escape that responsibility. Actually, the disaster is already happening; ivy is climbing into the tree crowns and the trees are toppling from the sheer weight and the competition for light, water, and minerals. By the time laypeople do comprehend, the problem will become vastly more expensive and, from a layperson's point of view, less satisfactory. Dead, dying, and toppling trees heavily weighted with ivy and unable to regenerate from seed in the ivy or blackberry monoculture beneath. It is very late; we should have acted several decades ago." (http://naturenewssf.blogspot.com/)

Comments and Hearing Transcripts Are Now Online.

The public comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the UCSF Mount Sutro Management project are available for viewing on the UCSF Campus Planning website through the links below. The public comments received are typically published along with the University's responses, in a "Responses to Comments" document as part of the Final EIR. However, due to the broad public interest in the project, the public comments are being made available in advance of the publication of the Responses to Comments document.

The University will prepare and publish written responses to all comments received, both in writing and at the February 25, 2013

public hearing for the Draft EIR, as part of the Final EIR.

To read the comments on the Draft EIR go to: http://campus-planning.ucsf.edu/pdf/MtSutroDEIRCommentLetters.pdf

To read the transcript of the public hearing, go to:

http://campusplanning.ucsf.edu/pdf/MtSutroDEIRPublicHearingTranscript.pdf

For more information about the UCSF Mount Sutro Management project, please visit http://www.ucsf.edu/about/cgr/current-projects/mount-sutro-open-space-reserve.

What is the Waller Center?

On February 28, 2013, the Waller Center held its first meeting at the former site of the Hamilton United Methodist Church at 1525 Waller Street, in order to create a task force, as well as to inform and receive input from the neighbors concerning their intended use of the space.

The church was constructed in 1906 and is believed to have been designed by Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan. Throughout the years, a number of social services had use of the space and, after many years and various issues that arose, the Board of Trustees decided to sell the property. In 2008, the United Methodist Church voted to disband the congregation and, short of the Saturday afternoon Haight Ashbury Food Program, which feeds between 150 and 200 people weekly, and the City Car Share component in the parking lot, the building has sat empty since then. When Kelly Newell first



The former Methodist Church on Waller and Belvedere has been repurposed both into a conference center and neighborhood gathering place.

viewed the site in order to see if it would be appropriate for an urban camping ministry, she was surprised to find that everything had been left as if the Rapture had occurred, coffee cups stood around half full, sacraments sat on the altar as though waiting for another service to begin. Despite the eerie feeling and the obvious, enormous amount of work that would need to be done in order to make the building habitable, Kelly immediately saw the potential for an urban camping and young person's ministry, due to the large gym and dormitory space. The first thing they did was to have the building inspected and, once they received clearance, they reactivated the fire alarm system and gave the kitchen and bathroom an immediate thorough cleaning. When they went to repaint the kitchen, they discovered "a cross between a Tim Burton and Dr. Suess mural" on the wall.

Between the first task force meeting on February 28th and the second one on April 30th, they installed safety lights in the stair

wells, finished their fire inspection, installed windows and doors, fixed the dishwasher, cleaned up the chapel, painted more rooms, repaired the main heater for the sleeping space as well as making it a quieter component. Due to concerns about potential noise affecting the neighbors, they decided that there would be no kitchen usage allowed after 10 p.m. They state that "The Waller Center features a gymnasium, a small conference room, a full professional kitchen, a community dining area and accommodations for up



Kelly Newell is the director of Young People's Ministries and Camping (United Methodist Church California-Nevada Conference) and oversees the Waller Center.

to 40 individuals. As a community center for the local neighborhood, Waller Center will provide spaces for performances, meetings and social gatherings."

While they continue to ask for neighborhood input, the space, so far, has been used for a bell choir, a Friday night Bible

study group, has hosted a girl scout troop, has held a baby shower, five birthday parties in the gym, and has hosted five different college groups in the month of March for an alternative spring break experience, in which the students volunteered in the areas of immigration, HIV, Larkin Street and the San Francisco Food Bank. Along with the urban ministry, they picture the space possibly being used as a gathering place for community children, programs and services for senior citizens, scheduled community events (e.g. regular pot lucks or monthly bridge games, community and town hall meeting, operating as a polling place, an electronic collection site, offering emergency training in CPR, earthquake preparedness as well as provide space for advertising community information and events.

If anyone has any questions, suggestions or is interested in attending future task force meetings, please contact either Kelly Newell, the Director of Young People's and Camping Ministries, kellyn@calnevumc.org or the site coordinator, Matthew Pearson at matthewalexanderpearson@gmail.com

-Marianne Hesse

Cole Valley Fair Seeks Artists, Vendors, Musicians and Unique Cars!

MIDLINE is pleased to announce that the Cole Valley Fair will be back again for its 11th year on Sunday, September 29, 2013.

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

If you're an artist with unique handcrafted work we hope you'll apply for a booth space. The deadline is July 1, 2013. 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, bicycles to motorcycles.

Application forms for vendors, musicians, and cars are available on MIDLINE's website at: www.midlinestudio.com/Cole_Valley_Fair.html.

Food applications will be handled separately. Interested in being a sponsor? Sponsorship information will be available soon. Any questions can be directed to colevalleyfair@gmail.com.

-Erica Kajdasz, Fair Producer

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last two months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. There are two exceptions: The June meeting will be on the second Monday, June 10, and there is no meeting in December. Call 431-1414 to learn the location.

March

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa–March 4, 2013

- 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, and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed La Boulange regional manager Carter Bemis and store manager Patrick Kelly.
- Treasurer Joan Downey reviewed the accounts of the last month and reported \$12,084.35 in savings, \$10,123.79 in checking for a total of 22,207.61. This is allocated as follows: \$4,456.28 in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$17,751.33 in the in general account. There was \$1,455 in member contributions for Clean Cole last month—an all time high.
- Carter Bemis, manager of La Boulange de Cole (under the new ownership of Starbuck's) assured the CVIA Board that there will be no major changes to the operation of the bakery other than the use of a special blend of Starbuck's coffee with a "La Boulange" label. The changes will occur the other way around. Starbuck's national chain will now feature La Boulange bakery products, which are currently being produced in two large facilities in South San Francisco. He said that a new La Boulange will open on 9th Avenue in the location of the former mortuary. Bemis renewed membership in CVIA and pledged to contribute to the Clean Cole sidewalk cleaning project.
- CSFN Delegate Karen Crommie reported on an important issue being raised by the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods—the proposed high-rise at 8 Washington St. on the Embarcadero. The developers want to construct a 136 ft. building in an area zoned for 84 ft. Granting this variance would be a dangerous precedent and open the floodgate for further high-rise development on the edge of the Bay. At CSFN's February meeting, Aaron Peskin and John Bollinger made the case for opposing the project. The issue will be on the ballot in November. This is the first referendum of this type in 20 years. Members voted to support the CSFN. Item 2: CSFN made \$5000.00 on the holiday dinner at El Patio. Item 3: Laurel Heights delegate Kathy Devincenzi reported that UCSF is planning to vacate

its Laurel Heights campus and is looking for a long-term tenant.

- Lena Emmery is now head of the Kezar Advisory Board, a panel that she and Chuck Canepa have been part of for many years. She replaces Calvin Welch. Lena reported that Mark Christenson, retired SF school coach is working to get the Kezar Track resurfaced. Lena asked that CVIA send a letter to Phil Ginsburg in support of resurfacing the Grattan playground.
- Approved grants to Grattan Elementary School (\$2,000) and the Clean Cole Project (\$2,000).
- David Crommie reported that Supervisor London Breed wants CVIA to rethink our support of the extended bike rental at Alvord Lake because a Stanyan Street bike shop has concerns about the competition. Cassandra Costello (Rec and Park) is the contact person.
- In a report on the Park Station police community meeting, David Crommie said that the new owner of McDonald's, C.C. Yin, has hired an armed security guard. Also, he wants to put in a drive-thru. Board commented that it will continue to oppose this effort because of impact on already congested Haight Street traffic. David further reported that bike theft is still rampant and that the Park Branch librarian, who attended the meeting, reported a record number of indigent people both in the library and camped out on the front steps.
- Joan Downey suggested that all board members check the CVIA website once per week.
- Amy Blakeley said there are approximately 49 hits per day on CVIA's website—mostly queries regarding the Cole Valley Fair and questions about the soon-to-arrive Peet's Coffee & Tea at the former site of Tully's. Our Facebook page had 4 new people, 79 likes and 40 people are regularly engaging. Amy also reported that there are goats grazing in Sutro Forest. (Note: This was later halted)
- Marianne Hesse reported on a community meeting held by the Waller Center (former Hamilton Methodist Church) in which building manager, Matthew Pearson discussed the urban retreat center's core value of mindful awareness and said the space, which is available for rent to anyone, was recently the site of a bridal shower and a birthday party. Marianne expressed disappointment that the center had not been immediately responsive to graffiti when it occurred.
- Discussed a time and site for Supervisor London Breed's community "office hours," for an upcoming Saturday morning. Karen Crommie to submit dates to Vallie Brown.
- Amy Blakeley discussed the possibility of a CVIA-organized rummage sale. Amy Blakeley to contact both Grattan and DeAvila schools for availability of their play yards/parking lot.
- Summer Social date set for Saturday, August 24th at Kezar Bar and Restaurant. Owner Steve Schick has confirmed availability.

Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

April

Location: Home of Joan Downey – April 1, 2013

- 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, and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.
- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,084.86 in savings, \$8,753.26 in checking for a total of 20,838.12. This is allocated as follows: \$5,756.28 in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$15,081.84 in checking account.
- Joan Downey reported on the private Oscar Party given by a generous member who wishes to remain anonymous, which raised over \$880.00 for CVIA. There were also two large donations of \$475 each to the Clean Cole project made by members Brittny Bottorff

and David Rumsey. A round of applause was given

- President Karen Crommie visited an informational open house held by the owner of 209 Grattan, who is applying for a demolition permit. Architect Jonathan Perleman made a persuasive case that the existing building is beyond repair, the victim of extensive substandard remodeling over the years. The new plan is a four-story house with first floor below ground and top floor set back. Several neighbors including Larry Burgheimer and Margaret P. Garvin oppose the project. Crommie said that, although she understood the objection of a cottage being replaced by large modern residence, the project is compliant with planning codes and CVIA would not oppose it.
- In her report on the CSFN meeting, Karen said that the legislation to mitigate the current environmental rules on new construction submitted by Scott Weiner is under fire by neighborhood groups all over the city because it shortens the time period for discretionary review. Supervisor Jane Kim has joined in the fight by writing alternative legislation much friendlier to those concerned about neighborhood projects. (Note: Karen Crommie subsequently met with HANC's Tes Welborn, who provided her with pertinent documentation for which she expressed gratitude.)
- Unanimously agreed to ask Chris Hock to join the CVIA board.
- David Crommie, in his report on the Police Community Meeting, said that Officer Friedman wants a link to the Park Station newsletter on our website. San Francisco SAFE's Morgan St. Clair spoke again about the need for defibrillators at \$1,750.00 each, which the police want to install in squad cars. (Note: The CVIA Board had previously voted against a grant for this purpose, feeling that its money would be better spent on our neighborhood school.)
- In her IT report, Amy Blakeley said there were 86 likes on face-book last month and that the new community website Nextdoor was taking off rapidly. So much so, that several subscribers have complained that it is being over-used for trivial posts.
- Lena Emmery, CVIA's delegate to the Park Station Citizen's Police Advisory Board (CPAB) submitted a report, which is printed on page 10.
- Agreed that the Grattan playground rummage sale be shelved until further notice. Possibly bring it up at the Summer Social (August 24).
- In his report on the UCSF Citizens' Advisory Committee. Chuck Canepa said that UCSF-Mt. Zion plans to add 250,000 square feet on the Scott Street side for cancer outpatient treatment only. More hospital beds will go to Mission Bay. Laurel Campus plans to lease the building to an outside firm. Since UC will retain ownership, it will remain tax-exempt.
- Nominations were considered for new officers and a slate was voted on. (See page 4 for list of nominees.)

-Carole Glosenger

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

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

New Frederick Street Pizza Parlor Seeks Alcohol Permit

CVIA has been contacted by Marsha Garland, representing Jamiel Ziad Hamadalla dba Kezar Pizzetta who is planning to open at 775 Frederick in the space of the former New Ganges restaurant. As any former patron of the New Ganges can understand, much cleaning and refurbishment will be required.

Garland told us, "Currently this property is zoned as a "limited restaurant" (no liquor license). The project sponsor would like to add beer and wine and needs a conditional use permit. Initially, the Haight Street Alcohol Restricted Zone posed quite a problem but we researched the Planning Code very carefully and double-checked everything with Dan Sider, the ombudsman for the Planning Department. In essence, a conditional use permit could be granted."

Planner Kanishka Burns told Garland in an email, "To date, the Planning Commission has approved Conditional Use authorization for three of the four Restaurants allowed per PC Section 719, and there is currently one 'Restaurant' slot still available which could be applied for."

Hamadalla formerly owned Monterey Deli in the Sunnyside district-known for its sandwiches and wide selection of off-sale wines. The online restaurant site Tablehopper.com commented (4-30-13) "I'm hoping the name on the permit is just temporary, because I am sure The Kezar Pub folks and Pizzetta 211 will have something to say about it." Tell us about it. Padrecito had to discard two names before settling on the final one.

-Karen Crommie

Neighborhood Bike Theft Rises

The Park Station's Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) is working on bicycle registration as a way to reunite stolen bikes with their owners. Think about it; when the police recover a bicycle they can note the serial number, color, make, and measure the size.



Properly locking a bicycle and registering its serial number is key.

But, without a registry, finding the owner is almost impossible. Prepare for the process by writing down the serial number of your bicycle, which can usually be found in one of two places—either under the crank or in the rear triangle where the wheel is fastened. You may need to remove the wheel to see the number. As for size, the standard measurement is from the middle of the crank to the top of the seat tube. Take a photo of yourself with the bicycle. The photo makes a strong claim for rightful ownership.

-Lena Emmery

Postscripts

After the collapse of Age Song's plans to operate a residence for the indigent mentally ill, the former hospital at the northwest corner of



The former Scobie Hospital was built in 1903.

Page and Masonic (1500 Page St.) sat dark and unloved for four years. Now Mercy Housing in partnership with The ARC has received a federal grant to renovate the historic brick building and provide a 16-unit independent living program for very low-income adults with developmental disabilities.

The grant comes with federal subsidies so that residents will only have to pay 30 percent of their income on rent.

Parents of young children rejoice! Lena Emmery tells us that the Rec and Parks Commission approved upgrades to the **Grattan Playground.** The work will entail replacement of the asphalt and is currently out for bid proposals.

Another AT&T U-verse utility box is being installed at Woodland **near Parnassus.** In the face of vigorous neighborhood opposition against the cumulative impact of 726 boxes across San Francisco, AT&T had withdrawn its application in July 2008. But when they mounted another campaign in 2011, the Board of Supervisors voted 6-5 that AT&T could be exempted from having to do an environmental impact report. This was later upheld in Superior Court. The boxes are four feet across, just over four feet tall and about two feet deep, and sit on concrete pedestals flanked by metal bollards. Within 150 feet is a second smaller box. The latter has already been installed at the Woodland/Parnassus site and awaits its larger partner.

Padrecito opened its doors just after we went to press with the last edition of this newsletter. Hence, it is no longer news that the Mexican cantina at 401 Cole, is a smash success. Although some

diners find the menu a bit too precious, drinks too exotic, portions too small, prices too dear, noise level too high, the overall verdict is overwhelmingly positive—a high-



quality restaurant with delicious, inventive food, well-prepared cocktails and attentive wait staff. Like any popular venue, there is a wait if you don't have reservations. For a description of patrons' favorite mouth-watering menu items, consult Yelp.com.



All You Knead, the laid-back eatery on Haight Street (1466) announced on Facebook in January that it would be stopping dinner service. By early March, after 40 years, they closed down completely. They say it's for "refurbishing" but who knows? There are rumors that a Chinese restaurant may take its place.

Chef Jim Angelus will be closing the doors of Bacon Bacon until his issues with the Planning Department are resolved. Late in applying for necessary permits and with some neighborhood opposition, they are in the process of renegotiating with the City to remain at their 205-A Frederick Street location. You can register your opinion by contacting planner Sharon Young at sharon.m.young@sfgov.org.

–Karen Crommie

Letters

Dear CVIA,

I'm writing to share my plans to apply for a Parklet in front of The Ice Cream Bar. The first step in the initial application is to show the Planning Department and DPW that I have the support of the neighborhood. So far, the response from nearby residents has been very favorable.

The proposed Parklet will occupy 2 parking spaces in front of my business, at 815 Cole Street. I realize that there may be opposition to that, but I hope that the benefits will outweigh the loss of those spaces. I believe that it will increase the visibility of the businesses on the north side of Carl, and also provide more outdoor seating, which Cole Valley residents seem to value highly.

Cole Valley's commercial corridor is currently very concentrated on the block between Carl and Parnassus and I hope that the Parklet will extend some pedestrian traffic to this block. Obviously, a Parklet will be very beneficial to my business, so I'm prepared to take on the responsibility and cost of installing and maintaining it.

I'm grateful to the CVIA, not only for sending a letter of support to DPW, but for all of their help during the very long process of opening my business. The entire neighborhood has been very supportive this past year, and I'm so glad I held out for this location, despite the extensive permitting delays. If you do support installing a Parklet on Cole, a letter of support would be greatly appreciated. Neighborhood support weighs heavily in the initial application. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

> Juliet Pries, Owner, The Ice Cream Bar hello@theicecreambarsf.com

Dear CVIA:

The new owners of 209 Grattan Street plan to tear down the existing habitable 900 sq. ft. cottage and replace it with a 2,800 sq. ft., 4 story building. On this half-size lot. the plans show the new building will soar 40 feet high and be ultra modern, both of which are incompatible with the neighborhood. Please contact me at mpgarvin@gmail.com.
Margaret P. Garvin

Dear CVIA:

I want to thank the members of the Cole Valley Improvement Association Board for your letter of support to Sharon Young of the San Francisco Planning Department.

All of us at Peet's working on this project to open a store at 919 Cole Street truly appreciate your recommendation of approval.

Thank you and I hope to see you at our beautiful new store in Cole Valley sometime this summer!

> Carol Mazzetti, Real Estate Director Peet's Coffee & Tea Mobile: 415-847-5231

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Winter edition should be sent before August 1, 2013 to CVIASF@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
Disturbance553-0	123
Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks 553-1	200
Abandoned Vehicles781-5	
Health Department255-3	610
Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.)	.311
Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal	.311
NextBus	.311
Street Lighting554-0	730
Mayor Edwin M. Lee	141
Chief of Police Greg Suhr553-1 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St. S.F., CA 94103	551
District Attorney George Gascón553-1 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St. S.F., CA 94103	741
Captain Greg Corrales	000

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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Dist	rict	Telephone	Fax
1.	Eric Mar Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org	554-7410	554-7415
2.	Mark Farrell Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org	554-7752	554-7483
3.	David Chiu, Board President David.Chiu@sfgov.org	554-7450	554-7454
4.	Katy Tang Katy.Tang@sfgov.org	554-7460	554-7432
5.	London Breed London.Breed@sfgov.org	554-7630	554-7634
6.	Jane Kim Jane.kim@sfgov.org	554-7970	554-7974
7.	Norman Yee Norman.Yee@sfgov.org	554-6516	554-6546
8.	Scott Wiener Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org	554-6968	554-6909
9.	David Campos David.Campos@sfgov.org	554-5144	554-6255
10.	Malia Cohen Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11.	John Avalos John.Avalos@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

Please clip and mail the coupon below 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 \$_____ Do not acknowledge by name in newsletter

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

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