

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIII

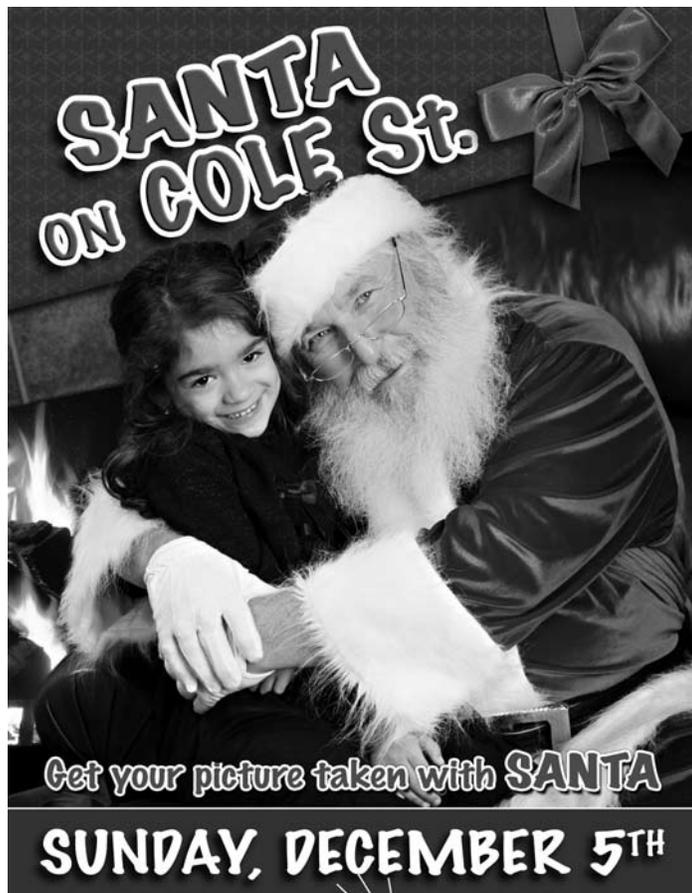
SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

WINTER 2010

Think Holiday Cards!

Because of the overwhelming response to last year's event, CVIA is again giving neighborhood families a chance to have their children (and dogs) photographed with Santa. As for posing and costumes, well, you're only limited by your imagination. Last December we saw everything from twins in jammies to Yorkies in hats.

This is a fundraiser for the 7-day-a-week cleaning of the Cole Street commercial corridor. It is made possible because of the generosity of photographer Loic Nicolas, who volunteers his time, Maryo Mogannam, who provides the use of Postal Chase and Tully's who



gives free hot chocolate to participating children. There are scores of other volunteers, too, particularly the two neighborhood guys who have agreed to play Santa: the popular Gaston Alfonso from Tully's and former CVIA president Chuck Canepa, known best for his vintage car show at the Cole Valley Fair.

Bring your children to Postal Chase (912 Cole Street) between the hours of 10 to noon, 2 to 5 p.m., sign up and pay \$20. If there is a line, go to Tully's for a free chocolate for your tykes and half-off on a drink for yourselves. (In most cases you can go right in for your sitting.) The next day you go online to select your prints, which are priced from \$1.00 for prints and from \$15 for digital files. For more information, visit Loic's special website for this shoot at <http://loicphoto.com/santa/>. Such a deal.

"Civil Sidewalks" Wins in Spite of Haight Voters

It was predictable that the politically left-leaning Haight Ashbury would vote against the Civil Sidewalks measure (Prop L) and in favor of Prop M, a bill put forward by our own Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi that would increase police footbeats but which contained a mean-spirited poison pill designating that if it won at the polls, Prop L would be history. But the final tally was a tribute to the mayor, Chief of Police George Gascón and the citywide Civil Sidewalks campaign managed by consultant Tom Hsieh, Jr., which unified neighborhoods from Cow Hollow to Bayview, that were sick and tired of seeing the city's sidewalks commandeered by drifters. It was our compatriots in those other neighborhoods who pushed Prop L over the top and defeated Prop M. with its trickster earmark.

If the majority of Haight voters were not with us, Haight leaders were. Kent Uyehara, owner of FTC; Ted Loewenberg, president



Mayor Gavin Newsom speaks at a Haight rally to supporters of the "Yes on L, No on M" campaign. At lower right are Kent Uyehara, who initiated the movement and Ted Loewenberg (rear) a key spokesperson.

of HAIA; Arthur Evans, articulate spokesman for public civility; Captain Teresa Barrett, and the many neighbors who attended rallies, distributed fliers, sent money and displayed posters were invaluable to the victory. They stood up and took the hits here in this neighborhood so that voters all over the city could register their



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with the city's misguided acceptance of street dwellers, most of whom refuse the smorgasbord of rehabilitation services costing the taxpayers millions of dollars every year. Congratulations to all who participated in this campaign. Even though we have to wait until January before it's enacted, victory is sweet. —Karen Crom-

Whole Foods Plods Ahead

Whole Foods is keeping its cards close to the chest, at least as far as CVIA is concerned. But a brief email from the executive



Workers have replaced the front wall and begun to pour concrete.

coordinator of design and construction, R. Adam Smith said, "The Haight Stanyan store is progressing on schedule for opening early next year. We have completely gutted the building, removed the storefront, poured new concrete flooring and are working on parking lot and site work as well." Yeah, well that much we can see if we look through the fence. The truth is that they were supposed to open before Christmas and because of delays with other store openings, work on the Haight/Stanyan project didn't get the early start that Vice-President of Development Glenn Moon had anticipated.

Mt. Sutro Open Space Reserve

(Editor's note: The article below is a rebuttal to an earlier opinion piece by botanist Jake Sigg, who questioned UCSF's stewardship of Sutro Forest.)

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) facilitated an extensive community involvement process to develop forest management goals for the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve and to plan for their implementation. A report documenting this process is now available at www.community.ucsf.edu.

In recognition of the need to maintain a meaningful dialogue with the community, UCSF held a community planning process in 2009-2010 to define demonstration projects with evaluation criteria for the Reserve, a 61-acre area in the heart of San Francisco. The focal point was two-fold:

- To identify best practices in urban forest management that promote safety, enhance health and aesthetics, and contribute to usability, and
- To identify specific, limited areas within the Reserve to demonstrate these practices.

Four demonstration projects totaling less than 7.5 acres are proposed to be implemented. The projects were designed to allow

for study and evaluation of varying management techniques.

The Community Planning Process Summary report outlines commitments that UCSF will follow going forward, as well as several changes that were made to the demonstration project plan as a result of the community's engagement. The overarching goal was – and remains – to collaborate with the community to identify, demonstrate and evaluate best practices before further decisions or actions are taken.

UCSF would like to thank all those who participated in the community planning process. Continued participation is appreciated and valued as we seek to maintain and manage this treasured open space.

If you would like to be placed on UCSF's email notification list for this or other projects, please email community@cgr.ucsf.edu or call 476-3206 and indicate which campus locations interest you: Parnassus, Mount Zion, Mission Bay, Laurel Heights.

Barbara Bagot-López

UCSF Director Community Relations

New Boss at Park Station

Captain Denis O'Leary has recently replaced Captain Teresa Barrett at Park Police Station. Barrett has been responsive and proactive. We wish her well in her new assignment at the Police Academy. It is the policy of the SFPD to regularly rotate its captains so that they have experience at all ten stations.

Captain O'Leary is a first generation American and was reared in the Sunset District. He has been with the SFPD for twenty-nine years and is coming to us directly from the Department's Homeland Security Unit.

He has served as Commanding Officer of the Vice and Narcotics Division, Ingleside Station, Southern Station, and in the Office of the Chief of Police. There, he managed the department's Internal Affairs and Legal Divisions. Before that, he was Captain at Taraval Station.

But he admits that his favorite assignment as a police officer was walking a foot beat, which he did for many years in the Mission, Tenderloin, Western Addition, and Polk Gulch area.

Captain O'Leary is a firm believer that officers should know the neighbors, merchants, and businesses in their territory. One of the first things he did, as Captain of Southern Station was to assign twelve officers to foot patrol on Market and Sixth Street, ordering them to "get to know the people." We welcome him to the Haight and look forward to meeting him at his monthly Community Forums, which will take place at 6 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at Park Station (Waller off Stanyan). He can be reached at Denis.O'Leary@sfgov.org.



Capt. Denis O'Leary

Don't Resist: Get a Clipper Card



On November 1, the "A" (BART/Muni) Fast Pass and Regional Transit Connection customers transitioned from the paper version of the Fast Pass and the Sticker version of the disabled monthly pass to being able to upload their pass on either a Clipper card or RTC Discount Photo ID card (which is a Clipper card).

To learn more about the Clipper Card, visit www.sfmta.com or www.clippercard.com.

Halloween on Belvedere St. Victim of Its Own Generosity

The tradition started over 30 years ago when there were scores of children living on Belvedere. "Several parents decided to block the street off and make it a safe place to trick or treat," said Bruce Samson, owner of Kids Only. Peter Gorman, past CVIA president added, "I started carving outrageous giant pumpkins. The tree-lined streets and Edwardian houses helped set the mood and the kids just started coming." One by one, other neighbors joined in, even those without children. Today, the houses that are not rigged up as "haunted" are, at the very least, sporting lighted pumpkins. Everyone offers treats. Over the years, a visit to Belvedere has become a tradition, not only for Cole Valley/Haight children, but families all over the city. Gorman, who no longer lives on Belvedere, remembers "recent immigrants from Asia and Latin America, eager to introduce their children to our cultural traditions, brought them to Belvedere Street. I can still see the astonishment in their eyes that so many people would give them free treats."

Alas, with success comes responsibility. This year the City required Belvedere neighbors to purchase an event permit and has told them that the SFPD is no longer in the street barrier business, so please provide your own. And, by the way, they need to be equipped with flashing lights. This generous, fun-loving group of neighbors has suddenly become the victim of their own success.



Residents of Belvedere St. compete with one another to provide thrills and rewards for trick or treaters.

Are the police alarmists? The four blocks of decorated houses and scary street theatre provide hundreds of pounds of candy and fond memories for countless children, but they are drawing more and more people every year. In areas near the houses with elaborate displays, it is almost impossible to move.

This year CVIA was happy to cover the \$150 for the permit. But, the City is also asking for someone to accept liability—as in buying insurance at a cost of approximately \$500 for the single evening. Then there is the price of barricades, which the SFPD was kind enough to supply free this year as an exception to their current policy. The permit states that the barricades need to have flashers, which one neighbor added. But next year, the Belvedere neighbors are facing the prospect of paying for the permit, the insurance and renting flashing barriers. Will they be willing to do it?

One Belvedere resident said he had bought ten bags of candy, each containing 250 chocolate bars, and had to turn his lights out at 7:15 p.m. because he ran out. People with very young children started coming in large numbers at 4 p.m. in broad daylight. "I thought they were coming early to get back home to watch the game," said his wife. "Maybe it was the balmy weather and the general giddiness over the Giants but, they just kept coming, and coming." Another resident said "I think the event is probably self-limiting—when it becomes uncomfortably crowded, people will stay away." The police, however, do not share this optimistic view. They've had experience with dense crowds on Halloween and aren't eager to give Belvedere

the benefit of the doubt.

The question remains, should an event where no one makes a profit and, in fact, assumes losses for the benefit of the city's children really be held to "Street Fair" standards? Maybe this is something the police could cover out of good will.

—Karen Crommie

Neighborhood Organizations Collaborate on Voter Forum

It's a good sign when the district's organizations get together on something. Such was the case on September 29 when about a hundred people gathered at John Adams campus of City College to hear



Board of Supervisors President David Chiu makes the case for Prop. D which would allow non-citizens to vote in school board races. The measure lost.

pro and con arguments on eight of the hotly contested propositions. Of particular interest were the battling Props M and L dealing with misuse of sidewalk space, and props J and K, the two measures plugging a loophole in payment of the city's hotel tax. CVIA sent bright green postcards to all its members letting them know about this event and many of you came. We partnered with the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association, Buena Vista Neighborhood Association, the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors and the North of the Panhandle Neighborhood Association. Whole Food Markets donated delicious cookies, as did the hosting organizations.



HAIA President Ted Loewenberg served as moderator.

Newly reelected City College board member John Rizzo secured the venue for the Issues Forum and we thank him for that.

—Karen Crommie



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

Cole Valley Fair 2010

The eighth Cole Valley Fair was blessed with blue skies, incredible volunteers, gifted artisans, fabulous cars, delicious food, talented entertainers, and wonderful neighbors to share it.

The day started off on a perfect note when there were no cars



CVIA's Joan Downey arrives early and stays late to direct the day's events. She has been the fair's organizer for four years.

that needed to be towed – and it just got better as the day progressed.

The Fair poster was a big hit this year – we sold out. And the T-shirt sales were robust. Hilary Williams did a great job on the design of both. Did you recognize the house? It's on the corner of Cole and Beulah.



This year we extended the fair an extra half block north of Carl with the hopes of engaging the merchants in that block. But other than Crepes on Cole (a generous sponsor) that didn't happen



so we need to evaluate whether we should do that again next year. Let us know what you think we should do. (cviasf@aol.com).

This year we invited food trucks to feed us. Other than Bambino's, no other restaurant

wanted to serve food outside – understandable because of the strict and costly regulations the Department of Public Health (DPH) imposes. La Boulange de Cole and Crepes on Cole both served food prepared inside on tables outside. Food trucks have Fire Department permits and some have DPH permits so they were more cost effective – and had fantastic food! The downside is that their generators make some noise so



the entertainers that are close by are drowned out by the noise. What should we do next year?

CleanScapes, the company that provides the daily sidewalk cleaning on Cole Street, also provides the cleaning service for the Fair. They monitor the streets all day long in return for simply getting their name on our poster and T-shirt. Their crew is on site before 6 a.m. and continues on until 7 p.m. insuring that the area is clean at all times. They did a great job!



The city's fees increase every year to produce a street fair so it is always a challenge to make this a viable venture. We are fortunate to have generous sponsors – Wells Fargo, CleanScapes, La Boulange de Cole, Sunset Scavenger, and Whole Foods, to name



a few, who help with the production of the posters and T-shirts. Because we have a very good reputation with the vendors, we were able to sell all the booth spaces and maintain a waiting list. Bottom line is that we made about \$7,000 net, which we will

give back to the community. The Clean Cole Street project, Grattan School, and the Park Branch Library are the major beneficiaries.

—Joan Downey

Muni Changes

The Municipal Transit Authority (MTA) has been looking beyond restoring service to what it was before the cutbacks in May—they're looking at other ideas that would not cost a lot, be fairly easy to implement, and affect lots of riders. These proposals will be vetted in public meetings.

One heavy usage line they are looking at is the 71 Haight-Noriega. Since dwell-time at stops account for about 20 percent of the travel time on a route, reducing the number of stops would speed up the trip for many riders. Of course, this would require that about 10 percent of the customers walk farther to their stop. The 71 bus has 115 inbound and outbound stops with 21,000 daily passenger on and offs. The existing spacing is about 750 feet between stops; the proposal is to increase it to 925 feet by removing 24 stops, adding 5, and optimizing 6 (changing which side of the intersection the stop is on.) This should decrease the travel time by 4 minutes and reduce operating costs.

Another change being considered that would affect our neighborhood is a proposed N-Judah Express bus. This would run during commute times with stops on Judah between La Playa and 19th Ave. The passengers' commute time would be decreased by about five minutes and – significant to Carl and Cole commuters – would mean that there might be room on the streetcar by the time it gets to Cole Valley.

Those who want to make suggestions for improvements on a Muni line should contact Howard Strassner (ruthow@dslextreme.com), a long-time transit and pedestrian advocate. He is conducting a grassroots effort to coordinate proposals from volunteer riders.

—Joan Downey

Midline Makes Its Mark

Health and fitness have long been key ingredients in the city's lifestyle. And it just got easier now that Midline, a new athletic training studio recently opened at 515 Frederick Street (near Stanyan) in the space formerly occupied by Stumasa.

Midline studio owners, Jay Kajdasz and Mien Luong bring diverse backgrounds in personal training and Pilates enabling them to offer an unique package of exercise options.

Upon graduating from SUNY Binghamton with a dual major in Psychobiology and Chemistry, Jay arrived in San Francisco almost 10 years ago. After playing a number of sports and getting his MS in Organizational Development, he became an ACSM Certified Personal Trainer with an interest in sports injury rehabilitation and athletic training. "When training independently, you can pull from many different disciplines and apply them in ways that are the most helpful to your clients," says Jay.



Jay Kajdasz is a certified personal trainer specializing in sports injury rehabilitation.

A Kinesiology major at San Francisco State, with an emphasis in Exercise Science and Fitness, Mien began her career interning at Oracle's employee fitness center. She is an ACE Certified Personal Trainer, a Certified Stott Pilates Instructor and a Certified Pre/post natal Instructor. Pilates is taught on floor mats or specialized equipment to help restore the natural curvature of the spine and re-balance the muscles around the joints, thereby strengthening the muscles around the midline of the body.

Mien Luong offers five different series of small Pilates classes, in addition to private lessons.



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As a team, Mien and Jay chose the new Midline space because it is light, open and suited their requirements: provided room in the front section for new fitness machines and equipment, as well as a back room with bamboo wood floors, where pilates mat classes and individual instruction on machines takes place. Its easy access to Kezar Stadium and Golden Gate Park are added benefits for clients.

The owners of Midline are dedicated to building and maintaining long-term relationships with residents of Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury by sharing their knowledge of health and fitness. It is an ideal facility for people who are looking to begin a supervised relationship with trainers who have a strong body of knowledge across many different disciplines. These can be those who are looking to get stronger and more physically fit, those who have been sedentary or

have injuries, and women who are interested in pre and post-natal exercise. The primary goal is to improve each client's quality of life and create personal fitness programs.

Midline currently offers personal training, Pilates, group classes and membership for active clients. During the winter months until March 2011, Midline is offering a 3 or 6-month membership/private training package. For more information on training, membership or Pilates, go to midlinestudio.com or call 571-8666.

—Susan Hills

Soda Fountain on Cole St.

A young neighborhood entrepreneur paid attended the November CVIA Board Meeting to lay out her plans, already months in the making, for an old-fashioned soda fountain at the site of the short-lived Cole Market (815 Cole St.).

"The Ice Cream Bar," a longtime dream of Juliet Pries, will operate as a full-service 1930s-style soda fountain and creamery, serving items prepared on-site using local, organic ingredients. A graduate of the Culinary Academy in pastry and former resident of Cole and Alma streets, she has met with several other neighborhood business owners, whose reaction has generally been, "Go, girl."



The back bar's blonde veneer and round mirrors (missing here) evoke the "Style Moderne" of the 30s.

Pries is installing a special white tiled room for ice cream making and is replacing the existing noisy compressors with smaller, quieter ones. The Ice Cream Bar will also feature traditional soda fountain beverages, using house-made syrups. There will be a combination of counter and table seating.

Pries found an original 1930s bar on line and it was love at first sight. Without hesitation, she purchased the complete package:

blonde curved wood with chrome trim, round mirrors, original soda dispensers and marble counters. What's not to like?

This will, of course, will have to be approved by the Planning Department, which will schedule a hearing in the next two months. She will need a conditional use permit to open as a cafe where there was none before. Cole Valley comes under the Haight Neighborhood Commercial District's cap on restaurants, but fortunately there are some empty slots so she will not have to apply for a variance. It sounds like a good fit for the neighborhood and we wish her luck. (Wonder if she'll offer Black and White Sundaes?) Anyone with questions can contact Pries at www.icecreambarSF.com.



The Stanley Knight soda fountain was manufactured in the 50s.

—Karen Crommie

Cole Valley to Lose Parking for Faster, Safer Transit

There are plans to expand the sidewalk and add three transit bulbs on Carl Street at Cole Street and at Stanyan Street. The Carl/Cole transit stop is the second-busiest surface stop on the N Judah line, with more than 2,300 passengers boarding and alighting trains at this stop per weekday. The Carl/Stanyan transit stop is used by over 700 passengers per weekday.

The Municipal Transit Agency (MTA) plans to widen the sidewalk by up to nine feet to create a sidewalk bulb, which will provide a clear path for customers to board the N Judah without having to navigate between parked cars. This will improve the safety of Muni customers by making it easier to board and alight trains, and by improving their visibility. In addition, the sidewalk bulbs will create additional space for transit passengers to wait, reducing crowding at the transit stops and improving the experience of both pedestrians and transit customers.

At the Carl/Cole intersection, the inbound transit bulb on the southwest corner will be 175 feet long, and the outbound transit bulb on the northeast corner will be 98 feet long. At the Carl/Stanyan intersection, the inbound transit bulb on the southwest corner will



Seven parking spaces will be removed from the Carl/Cole intersection.

be 60 feet long. Any existing driveways along these proposed bulbs would be reconstructed and slightly widened to ensure that cars can continue to access garages.

These bulbs would remove seven on-street parking spaces near the Carl/Cole intersection and two spaces near the Carl/Stanyan intersection. While we recognize that parking is at a premium in this neighborhood, installing these transit bulbs will improve conditions for the more than 3,000 daily passengers that use these transit stops by eliminating the need for passengers to weave between tightly parked cars as they get on and off of N Judah trains. They will also improve pedestrian visibility at the intersections, and provide the train operators a clear view of boarding and alighting customers. Furthermore, they will eliminate conflicts between trains and parked cars, particularly at the outbound stop on the northwest corner of the Carl/Cole intersection, where the N Judah tracks curve and illegally parked cars have caused numerous sideswipe collisions.

These proposals build on the community-endorsed recommendations that came out of a series of community meetings held in fall 2007 and spring 2008 to discuss options to improve safety and convenience for both customers and pedestrians at the Carl/Cole intersection. Although the Carl/Stanyan intersection was not studied at that time, we are also proposing to widen the sidewalk for the inbound N Judah stop at Stanyan. Because there is less passenger activity at the Stanyan Street stops, we are proposing to construct a

transit bulb at only the inbound stop.

If approved, these changes would be implemented in 2012 in coordination with the replacement of the N Judah tracks on Carl Street between Arguello Boulevard and the Sunset Tunnel. If you have any concerns, please contact Britt Tanner at 701.4685 or britt.tanner@sfmta.com.

AT&T Tries Again to Place Boxes

Defeated two years ago, AT&T is once again applying to the Planning Department for a CEQA categorical exemption from filing an Environmental Impact Report. CVIA's David Crommie was instrumental in stopping the exemption two years ago, feeling that the then nearly 800, privately-owned, refrigerator size boxes did indeed call for an impact report.

Even though they have pared the number down to 700 and reduced the size of each box to 4 feet x 4 feet x 2.5 feet, they are still enormous boxes to be placed in the public rights-of-way without having some kind of analysis on their cumulative effect across the city.

Now called "communications cabinets," the boxes would clearly make an impact on pedestrians, on car passengers trying to open their door, on people with baby strollers and wheelchairs. But, most of all, it is the potential of urban squalor as these large white (compulsory) boxes are inevitably covered with graffiti. Then, there is the issue of utilizing our public space and utility easements for private profit, and that the technology the boxes will facilitate will be out of date in five years, maybe sooner. There is also the dangerous legal precedent this will set, as other broadband servers demand their space on our sidewalks.

When AT&T representative Marc Blakeman spoke to the CVIA Board in October, he was asked if the boxes could be undergrounded. The simple answer was that, it costs too much. But that is hardly an answer when you have pockets as deep as AT&T.

Unless there is an outcry, they will probably get their way and be allowed to place 700 boxes, all within 300 feet of 700 presently-existing boxes, across San Francisco. They have already filed for their exemption and the city is eager that we should have the latest fiber optic services.

AT&T's plan involves upgrading its current communications network with fiber optic cable. In addition to high-speed internet and home phone service, they will offer entertainment and digital IP-TV service. And because the upgraded communications infrastructure is an Internet Protocol network - cell phones, laptops, PDAs, home appliances, security systems, television could work together. Each new box, combined with the existing boxes, will serve approximately 400 houses.

For some reading this, the opportunity to purchase increased digital services will be more important than the urban landscape. But, not to me. All the work neighbors have done to improve the appearance of their streets can be rendered negligible if a graffiti-covered four by four foot, white box goes on your sidewalk. And, believe me, this will just be the beginning.

—Karen Crommie



Photo courtesy of Chris Duderstadt

By seeking approval district by district, the cumulative impact on San Francisco's neighborhoods is escaping attention. Pictured above is an installation at 42nd and Ulloa.

Recycling Center Moving?

The planets seem to be in the right alignment and hopefully the stargazers at the HANC Recycling center have been casting their eyes to the sky: the time has finally come for the center to move to a more appropriate location. Even before 1998, when the Golden Gate Park Master Plan designated it as a “non-conforming” operation and residential curbside recycling was instituted, Rec and Park put their lease on a month-to-month status. Over the years, various Rec and Park executives and commissions have announced that the recycling center’s moving day was imminent but, in the end, HANC flies the flag of recycling, accuses any opposition of being against it, and does...well, I don’t actually know *what* it is they do, but it involves people with power and the result is that the Center remains—trucking recyclable cardboard, cans, bottles and paper from other centers into their spot at Kezar Corner for sorting, and breaking glass six days a week. They are supposed to recycle in GG Park: they don’t. They regularly accept recyclables they know are stolen; they have a sweetheart lease of \$5,000 a year and their profits are used to advance their political agenda.

How do they get away with it year after year? Because the California Bottle Bill that Californians enacted in 1986, with, I might add, the help of many of us in this neighborhood, requires markets over a certain size to provide cash redemption for bottles and cans. They don’t want to do it. It takes space, it’s dirty, and slows down the checkers. Enter the Recycling Center, which, according to law, can redeem the bottles in place of the markets, provided they are within a certain distance. Kezar Corner happens to be within the legal redemption jurisdiction of several markets—most conspicuously, the soon-to-open Whole Foods. If they band together to keep the Recycling Center in place in their own self-interest, they will comprise a formidable opposition. The option is to redeem the bottles at the checkout stands, the old fashioned way, or invest approximately \$60,000 in a pair of “reverse vending machines” that accept the recyclables (one by one) and automatically print out a receipt voucher redeemable for cash or merchandise inside the market. The latter solution would also displace at least four places in the parking lot.

Responding to the growing interest in homegrown produce, not to mention the downturn in the economy, the idea of a community garden was proposed to Rec and Park for that space. It was met with widespread approval. Lose a redundant recycling center: gain a source of fresh vegetables and community-building. Most neighbors wanted HANC’s native plant garden to be included in this garden. Rec and Park is seeking a way to incorporate, not only the native plant garden, but to involve the Garden for the Environment, for which HANC is fiscal sponsor, and which, in turn, provides HANC with grant money from the city. (For the record, HANC no longer receives direct city funding for its recycling.)

At a meeting three weeks ago, Rec and Park agreed, once again, that it is long past time that the recycling center be relocated, but it is afraid of the backlash from the markets who will then have to comply with the spirit of the law and actually buy back the containers they sell. They are also aware that this will not solve the problem of the bin raiders who fill their shopping carts with our recyclables and will, if there is no redemption center, be going to the neighborhood grocery stores to redeem them. But, wait a minute. That’s the problem of the markets and not the problem of Rec and Park. They are also intimidated by the recycling center’s head Ed Dunn, the son of June Gutfliesh—City Hall operative and former aid to Sue Bierman. Dunn joined the SF Fire Department a few years ago but still has time to run the Recycling Center. Add to that the lack of

support from District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi and the fact that we will soon have an interim mayor who may change the roster of power players, and you see how difficult this will be. Sure, they say the time has finally come for the relocation of the recycling center. As for me, I’ll believe it when I see it.

—Karen Crommie

After Six Decades, A New Look for Stow Lake Boathouse

The city’s Recreation and Park Commission voted Thursday to oust the long-time vendor at the Stow Lake snack bar and boat rental concession and replace it with an out-of-state vendor. The commission’s 6-1 vote came after two hours of divided and sometimes



The old boathouse will get a facelift but the popcorn will stay pink.

bitter public comment over the proposal. The current owner, the Stow Lake Corp. had operated it for 67 years, but a New Mexico firm owned by the Ortega family, pledged to make improvements to the building, install a cafe and buy a new fleet of boats—some possibly swan-shaped. CVIA received the following letter.

Dear CVIA: We are humbled by the outpouring of support we were treated to at last week’s Recreation and Park Commission hearing (Aug. 24). It means a great deal to us that you took the time to come to the hearing and write a letter demonstrating your support for our vision of a renewed Stow Lake. We look forward to working with you to restore this special San Francisco place. We are committed to making it a more attractive destination, and we would have never had the opportunity had it not been for your efforts.

Armand Ortega

Thank You For Your Support

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

Eileen Lemus, Rita and Richard Felciano, David Rumsey, Les Silverman and Irv Govan, John Manning, William Rothum, Dennis Martino, Michael Sullivan, Rosemary Southwood, Kay Bertram, Mary and John Hooper, Me Me Riordan, Virginia Joosen, Michelle and Wallis Lim, Randy and Rich Lavinghouse, Robert Jones and John T. Smith.

CVIA Board Minutes

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

August

Location: Home of Lena Emmery & Chuck Canepa - August 2, 2010

- 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, MTA Citizens Advisory Council, Alvord Lake Gardening Work Party and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$22,193 in savings, \$14,994 in checking, \$5,961 in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$31,104.84 in the Cole Valley Fair fund.

- Motion passed to promote the Community Garden proposal at Recycling Center location once it has been presented formally at the Rec and Park Commission.

- Shannon Cooper Hock to contact following food vendors for the Cole Valley Fair: Crème brûlée, Korean tacos, Filipino food and possibly an ice cream wagon. She will report back at September meeting.

- Lena Emmery reported that the Bay to Breakers was the main focus of the Police Community Meeting on July 13 and that the group also heard a presentation from Karen Crommie on the SF Community Courts.

- Motion passed to sponsor "Santa on Cole" (photos with Santa) again this year and extend the time to accommodate afternoon nappers. Morning 10-12 Afternoon 3-5 p.m. (Note: Afternoon session was later changed to 2-5 p.m.)

- Amy Blakeley reported on the success of the CVIA website: in 2009 there were 7,898 hits (15,000 page clicks); in 2010, in the month of July there were 600 hits. The figures suggest that the interest in the website is relatively stable at approximately 35 hits a day. Hits for this year to date are 3,927.

- David Crommie reported on a meeting he attended in the Mayor's office with representatives from groups impacted by the Bay to Breakers. They will meet again on August 9 to work out protocol for the 2010 race. Lena Emmery agreed to attend in David's absence.

- Amy Blakeley met with the organizers of the Neighborhood Website but decided the online information exchange (with subsets) they are planning would have little benefit for CVIA, excepting for possibly marginally increasing membership.

- Motion passed to have an online members survey soon after the winter newsletter is published. It will allow members to state their opinions on neighborhood, issues including the Cole Valley Fair.

Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

September

Location: Home of David and Karen Crommie - Sept. 6, 2010

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, and heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, MTA Citizens Advisory Council, Alvord Lake Gardening Work Party and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed member Chris Hock

- Treasurers Report for month of August: \$14,153 in checking account, \$5,061 in clean Cole Account \$30,919 in Cole Valley Fair account and \$372.64 in CVIA account. Summer Social cost \$850

(incl. gratuity) over and above contributions from attendees.

- Agreed to extend a complimentary membership to longtime member Virginia Snyder.

- Cole Valley Fair: The main topic of the evening was a discussion lead by organizer Joan Downey on issues integral to the upcoming Cole Valley Fair: Kasbah Exotic Food has withdrawn participation over complications with Fire Department fees; a small number of canvas carry bags imprinted with Cole Valley Fair will be for sale as a trial run for future fairs; members of Sharon Art Studio will give demonstrations; there will also be a demonstration of Chinese Dance.

- Shannon Cooper Hock reported on the food concessions that have confirmed while she and husband Chris Hock described the artists who will perform at the fair.

- The Fair will have free-standing washstands in the two areas where food is sold. T-shirts will be priced at \$15 for short sleeve, \$20 for long-sleeve, with shirts from former years going for \$7 each or 2 for \$10, Posters will be priced at \$5 for this year's and last, \$1 for all previous years. There will be four A-frames signs-three identifying musicians, and one centrally placed displaying the entertainment schedule. David Crommie agreed to pick up all the old T-shirts at the Roberts-Unger home where they have been stored. Carole Glosenger and Shannon Cooper Hock will pick up the new ones at City Screen and Graphics, 1955 Carroll Ave. (at 3rd St.).

- Alpha Market registered a complaint about the presence of a fair booth planned by Whole Foods Market, expressing displeasure at CVIA's support of the large market such close proximity to his Cole Street grocery store.

- Board confirmed commitment to participate in a Propositions Night prior to the November election organized by HAIA with participation by BVNA and others. Date to be announced. Crommies to send out postcards informing members.

- Shannon Cooper Hock announced the opening of Off the Grid, a collection of street food trucks that will begin to operate at the end of Waller Street (at Stanyan) regularly on Thursday nights from 4 p.m. to dusk.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

October

Location: Home of Shannon Cooper and Chris Hock - October 4, 2010

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, the SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, Alvord Lake gardening work party, the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods and welcomed Vallie Brown, assistant to Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi and Mark Blakeman and Teri Vriheas from AT&T.

- The AT&T representatives answered questions regarding the boxes, euphemistically renamed "broadband cabinets," planned for over 700 locations in the city. The metal boxes, which will enable AT&T to link the new U-verse package into their existing system, have been marginally scaled down to 4X4X2.5 feet and will be placed within 300 feet of the existing 1000 SAC boxes currently on city streets. (See article on pg. 6.)

- Vallie Brown fielded questions regarding Supervisor Mirkarimi's Proposition M, which calls for more police footbeat patrols but contains a "poison pill" invalidating the Civil Sidewalks initiative, (Prop L) measure, even if it wins. She said that he included the add-on at the persuasion of Board President David Chiu. As for the Skateboard Park, destined for the empty space at the end of Waller

Street, Brown said that Mirkarimi was having second thoughts and had never wanted it there in the first place, preferring the horseshoe pits, an idea quashed by Rec and Park. As for the relocation of the HANC Recycling Center, she indicated (not surprisingly) that he would not get behind that effort.

- Brown encouraged us to call the Police non-emergency number when we see anything at all that jeopardizes health or safety and to be sure to ask for the “CAD number” (Computer Aided Dispatch), which will enable you to do a follow-up. It also lets the dispatcher know that you are serious.

- Discussed the distribution of the net profits from the Cole Valley Fair amounting to \$14,000. Agreed that \$7,000 should remain as seed money for next year’s fair and \$7,000 should be distributed in the following way: \$2,000 toward the annual Clean Cole Street obligation (a total annual expense of \$13,900), another \$1,000 to the Park Branch Library, and \$2,000 to Grattan Elementary School. Joan will ask the principal for a “wish list” of needs from which the Board can choose.

- Motion approved to donate \$150 for barricades to be used on Halloween night on Belvedere Street to prevent cars from entering the streets filled with children. (See article on pg. 3.)

- Renewal form must add option line for contribution to Clean Cole Street.

- Lessons Learned from 2010 Cole Valley Fair:

Remind CVIA booth volunteers to collect and record chits for free T-shirts; check police officers in and out since they charge \$95 per hour; zip ties were excellent in fixing the signs to parking meters; need different place to mount the banner instead of the front of Cole Garage; need to allow amplification for singers (we should recommend use of a battery pack model); keep parking control officers (PCOs) at barriers; empower CVIA traffic management czar, Amy Blakeley, to force compliance; need to define stage areas by some means, viz., a striped awning or large umbrella under which they could perform; Separate food and music if food concession has a noisy generator; T-shirts—some objected to the cuffs on the long sleeved shirts.

- Lena Emmerly reported on the reassignment of Park Station Captain Teresa Barrett. She will be replaced by Captain Denis O’Leary.

November

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger - November 1, 2010

- Reviewed last meeting’s resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, the SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, Alvord Lake gardening work party and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed Juliet Pries.

- Treasurer Joan Downey presented a four-year spreadsheet of CVIA financial status in all categories. Grants were made to Grattan Elementary School (\$2,000), Clean Cole Street cleaning (\$2,000 [toward a total annual cost of \$11,000]), Tree Frog Treks (\$100). Current assets are as follows. Savings: \$22,199.47. Clean Cole Street: \$4386.37, checking: \$3037.17, Cole Valley Fair: \$20,404.48.

- Discussed plans for Santa on Cole, which is to take place on Sunday, December 5 at Postal Chase: decorations, registration procedure, posters, publicity, etc. (See article on pg. 1.)

- Heard report from Juliet Pries, owner of the forthcoming Ice Cream Bar at the location of the now-closed Cole Market at 815 Cole St. and agreed to send a letter of support to the Planning Department. (See article on page 5.)

- Discussed details of our recent \$2,000 grant to Grattan Elemen-

tary School. Once again, the principal indicated her preference that it be spent on library books and gave us a list of books from which to choose. After discussion, decided to leave it to the discretion of the librarian.

- Joan Downey reported that the Belvedere Street neighbors are facing new city requirements of a permit and flashing barriers for Halloween night. (See article on pg. 3.)

- Discussed the proposed widened street “bulbs” at four Cole Valley transit stops to facilitate passenger loading. The board had varied opinions but finally voted to support the bulbs in keeping with the neighborhood preferences expressed at the three public meetings held by the SFMTA (Transit Effectiveness Project) and the city’s Transit First policy. (See article on pg. 6.)

- Agreed to write a letter supporting the Mt. Sutro Stewards’ seed propagation project at the Aldea garden.

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

New Guide to the Haight Ashbury by Local Authors

Jack and Gay Reineck, owners of a small publishing company and longtime residents of the Haight have recently released a handy 22-page pocket guide for visitors to the Haight Ashbury.

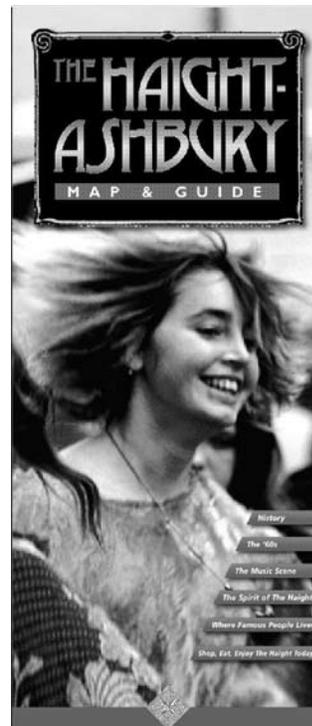
It came about at the urging of Booksmith owners Praveen Madan and Christin Evans, who knew from experience that there was a market for a lightweight, inexpensive map that would guide tourists to the historical sights and notorious venues of musicians, artists and writers of the 60s and 70s.

The Reineck’s company, Rufus Graphics, has published guide maps of both Yellowstone and Yosemite and has the reputation for well designed and thoroughly researched publications providing easy-to-read orientations.

Jack and Gay began by discussing their project with Darice Murray-McKay the Park Branch librarian who made its locked collection of Haight historical materials available to them. Then they contacted Katherine Powell Cohen, who had, two years before, written the richly illustrated paperback, “San Francisco’s Haight Ashbury,” part of the Arcadia series.

Murray-McKay and Cohen, along with their many contacts, provided the Reinecks the impetus and resources to delve deeply into the neighborhood’s mid-century history by interviewing the people who had lived it. They spoke with artist David Wills, tour guide Stan-nous Fluoride, historian Greg Gaar, assistant to Bill Graham Queenie Taylor, writers Joel Selvin and Monika Trobits, historical map collector David Rumsey*, innkeepers Pam and Bruce Brennan, among many others with rich backgrounds in the Haight.

As a book designer, Gay Reineck admits she had difficulty settling on the right “look” for the



guidebook. Although husband Jack bought her a tie dye shirt as inspiration, she felt the hippy thing had been overdone and ended up with a clean san-serif font, clear time delineations, a fold-out map and a treasure trove of photographs and posters sprinkled throughout. In addition there are user-friendly sections such as, "Services and Transit," "Things to Do Nearby," and lists of places to eat and shop. The Haight Ashbury Map & Guide is available at the Booksmith for \$6.95. The guide/map is great introduction to the neighborhood for friends and family visiting for the first time.

—Karen Crommie

**Longtime CVIA members and generous supporters Abby and David Rumsey of Beulah Street are historical map collectors who are in the process of putting their collection on line for all to use.*

How to Stay Safe on San Francisco Streets

This year's election contained two propositions regarding Civil Sidewalks. While both propositions held different views on how to mitigate sidewalk loitering, one thing became clear: in San Francisco where, at any point in time, an individual may fear for his or her safety while just trying to walking from Point A to Point B. Years ago, I was returning to my office in North Beach and was about to pass a homeless man. I smiled at him, and the next thing I know he lunged for me and chased me a block and a half back into the coffee shop I had just come from. It was a pretty scary moment, and since then I am more than cautious. No matter the outcome of the election, keep these tips in mind for staying safe on the streets:

Be aware of your surroundings.

If you feel you are being followed or see someone approaching who makes you uncomfortable, cross the street or step into the first open establishment (store, coffee shop, restaurant, etc.) available for you to enter.

Use the SF Police non-emergency phone number: 553-0123. Add "Police Non-Emergency" as a contact in your cell phone. Carry your cell phone on your person, not in a purse, briefcase, or backpack where it would be hard to reach.

Even if you are not out on the street, if you hear or see something that might endanger any passerby, call the police and request they come by. Remember that the police non emergency number can be used for police, fire, and medical issues.

If there is a group of questionable people that tends to gather in a certain area, find a new route if possible. Its worth going five minutes out of your way to feel at ease.

Call Park Station Police's direct phone number: 242-3000. Add "Park Station Police" as a contact in your cell phone.

Keep the Park Station Police number in an easy to find place near your home phone.

For a true emergency, always contact 9-1-1. Here are some things you may not know about 9-1-1: When you call 9-1-1 from your cell phone, the call is actually dispatched to the California Highway Patrol (CHP). This is not the case with land lines, only with cell phones. The CHP assesses the call then transfers it to the SFPD for dispatch, so the response time could be longer than one would expect.

For cell phones, there is a seven digit 9-1-1 number that will bypass the CHP and go directly to SFPD. That number is 553-8090. One critical thing to note about the cell phone 9-1-1 number is that the police cannot find your location. You must know your exact location in order to request emergency support from the cell phone 9-1-1 number.

—Amy Blakeley

Move to Ban Overnighters in Golden Gate Park

In an attempt to control the number of illegal campers and vandals, city officials are drafting legislation aimed at banning visitors from Golden Gate Park between 1:00 and 5:00 a.m. Three people have been attacked there recently in the early hours. There has been wanton destruction of saplings in the concourse and hacking down of 20-year-old plants in the Rose Garden.

Current law prohibits people from sleeping in the park at night. But this is almost impossible to enforce because, once approached by a police officer, the person awakes and, he/she is no longer breaking the law. Even if there is evidence that the person has built a campsite and is cited, it does little to deter repeat offenses.



Habitual park dwellers stake out territory for campsites.

Writing in the SF Examiner on October 19, Max Aldax quoted the Mayor's spokesman Tony Winnicker as saying that the mayor has been working with the city attorney, district attorney, police and the Recreation and Parks Department on the closure legislation.

CVIA president Lena Emmerly was also quoted expressing the view that members of the CVIA's board of directors have unanimously approved the idea, adding, "nothing good happens in the park at night."

She was joined by Richard Magary, chair of the steering committee for the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association, who said that his members are concerned about the crime that stems from illegal camping and are interested in a "firmer policy to close Golden Gate Park, the Panhandle and Buena Vista Park."

—Karen Crommie

Reality Show Star Attracts Fans to Booksmith

Kat Von D, author of the "Tattoo Chronicles" had her only Bay Area book signing at the Booksmith on Nov. 13. The line went from the door all the way



Not since the days of the I Beam has Haight St. seen such a long line.

down to Cole Street, and that was two hours before she was scheduled to appear. Exactly who is this person Kat Von D? She is a tattoo artist, who stars in a reality show called "L.A. Inc.," which takes place in her shop. She made the Guinness Book of World Records when she tattooed more people in 24 hours than anyone had done before. She started her television career on a similar show "Miami Ink." Her prior book was "High Voltage Tattoo." She created the Musink Tattoo Convention in 2008. Kudos to Praveen Madan and Christin Evans, owners of Booksmith for snagging this celeb. Oh, yes, she's drop dead gorgeous.



Kat Von D

Letters

Dear CVIA:

I live in C.V. and think it is a fantastic neighborhood. Growing number of kids, a great playground for people of all ages, nice business area, etc. However, all is not well. One issue that really chaps my hide is that people just put trash/old furniture/junk etc on the curb. These people are so irresponsible. Maybe if the CVIA took a strong stand on this we might make a difference. One idea is to promote the free (yes free) junk pick up that we all get as part of our fee to Sunset Scavenger (Recology). Maybe it is something you want to think about as part of your organization, and maybe next year it can have a prominent place at the fair, like a booth or something. Just a thought.

Andrew Leavitt

Editor's note: Yes, indeed. Recology (Sunset Scavenger) offers customers two free bulk pick-ups a year of 10 items or less. This is not for household garbage or any recyclables eligible for the blue bin. Check www.recyclemyjunk.com for a list of acceptable items. Call 330-1300 to schedule a pick-up.

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 February 1, 2011 to 628 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or kcrommie@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

EditorKaren Crommie
 Production.....David Crommie
 Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

Call for News

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



Cviasf@aol.com

Please contact us by e-mail if you have an issue to bring up, a newsletter article, address change, or an update to your membership information. Send us *your* e-mail address if you want to be notified of upcoming meetings and events of importance to our neighborhood.

CVIA Officers

President.....Lena Emmery
 Vice PresidentMarianne Hesse
 TreasurerJoan Downey
 MembershipLena Emmery
 Community RelationsAmy Blakeley
 Special ProjectsJoan Downey, Shannon Cooper Hoch

Help

- Emergency 911
- Disturbance553-0123
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles781-5865
- Health Department255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.)..... 311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal..... 311
- NextBus 311
- Street Lighting..... 554-0730
- Mayor Gavin Newsom554-6141
 City Hall - Room 200
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 S.F., CA 94102
- Chief of Police George Gascón.....553-1551
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103
- District Attorney Kamala Harris.....553-1741
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103
- Captain Denis O'Leary.....242-3000
 Park District Police Station
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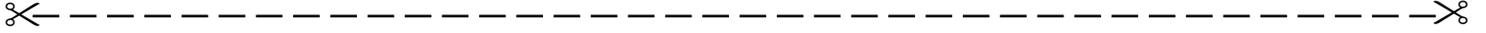
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10. Sophie Maxwell Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11. John Avalos John.Avalos@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$_____ Okay to acknowledge by name in newsletter

Dues paid to CVIA are not deductible as charitable contributions, 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**