

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXVI

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

FALL 2013

Summer Social on August 24 Features Art Agnos

Years ago, CVIA used to hold monthly membership meetings. But unless there was raging controversy (Walgreens's on Parnassus was the last one), members stayed home on meeting nights. Eventually only the board members attended and well, it's a big effort to build agendas, bring in speakers, set up refreshments and so, dispirited, we decided to stop them. As an alternative, any member has a standing invitation to attend our board meetings, which are held in rotation at the homes of board members. Approximately 30 members avail themselves of this opportunity each year.

However, as a California nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation, CVIA is required to hold an Annual Meeting and elect officers. We have chosen to make this a party and charge a small fee (\$10 a head) to cover a portion of the food and drink. For the third year this will be held at the Kezar Bar and Restaurant (900 Cole St.). Owner Steve Schick is a gracious host and we appreciate his closing down the place for CVIA members one day a year.

During the party, former mayor **Art Agnos will address the topic "Warriors Arena on the Waterfront: Right for San Francisco?"** As many of you know, the former mayor is spearheading the movement against the city's plan to build a multipurpose area on the waterfront. The case for the Golden State Warriors to headquarter in San Francisco has huge backing. Everyone from the Mayor,



Dave Karp, founder of Cole Hardware, was honored at last year's event.

developers, labor, the board of Supervisors and a host of power players, not the least of whom is Willie Brown, are steamrolling this project through. We thought you might like to hear the case for the other side.

The Kezar Bar and Restaurant will be preparing tantalizing snacks and will be serving their signature draft beers and wine. The cost is \$10 per person (payable at the door). We only ask that you RSVP to cviarf@aol.com so Steve can prepare enough food to make us happy. See you there on August 24 between 1 and 4 p.m.. You'll love it.

Bacon Bacon Gets Media Blitz

Who would have thought that something as common as the closing of a small business for permit issues would capture the attention of the national media? Ever since a group of Frederick Street neighbors protested the presence of a prep kitchen (and retail take-out restaurant) for the food truck called Bacon Bacon, the media have greeted the story like a gift from heaven. *Wall Street Journal*



Photo: Conor Wiercking

Posing for a WSJ photo, owner Jim Angelus eats a "Bacon Bouquet."

reporter Vauhini Vara titled her article, "Today It's the Bacon, Not the Pigs That Has Haight Ashbury Agitated"

Then it became a segment on "Good Morning America" called "Big Bacon Battle Sizzling," while Saturday Night Live's Amy Poehler reported, "A San Francisco bacon restaurant was closed for its smell."

As Ilan Moskowitz wrote in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* (7/16/13), it all started with a series of short *San Francisco Examiner* articles by Andrea Koskey with catchy headlines like 'Bacon Bacon Aroma Set to End,' which went viral in May."

But the closing didn't last long. Owner Jim Angeles has reopened his operation at 205-A Frederick with the permission of the Planning Commission providing he install a powerful ventilation system to draw away the smell of, duh, bacon.

—Karen Crommie

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New Guidelines for Dogwalkers

At the beginning of July, new regulations for dogwalkers went into effect. They must now have liability insurance, carry leashes with them at all times, obtain a permit from the city, receive train-



Cars carrying multiple dogs must now be inspected by the city.

ing or demonstrate on-the-job experience, walk no more than eight dogs at once, and can only transport dogs in vehicles inspected and approved by Animal Care and Control. Supervisor Scott Weiner, who wrote the legislation, worked with dogwalker groups, dog owner groups, Animal Care and Control, the SPCA, and park groups to provide a framework for safe practices and still allow professional dogwalkers to succeed and take care of the city's large population of canines. For more information about the rules and permits, Animal Care and Control has set up a website at <http://helpacc.org/SFDogWalkerLaw/>.

Bikes Can Now Be Registered

The Safety Committee of the Board of Supervisors on July 18 approved the funds to initiate a bike registration program developed by San Francisco SAFE and our Park Station Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB). Morgan St. Clair, of San Francisco SAFE, has



There over 1,000 stolen bicycles and bicycle parts stored by the SFPD. For every smartphone stolen in the city, three bikes are snatched.

been instrumental in bringing together various stakeholders, including the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, to support the program. The goal is to register bicycles citywide so that, if they

are recovered by police, the rightful owners can be contacted.

In June, the CPAB took a field trip to the SFPD evidence locker at Hunter's Point. The huge building is the home to over a thousand bicycles that have been recovered by the police. While some are being held as evidence for crimes, most could be returned to their owners if a registration system were in place. They have 120 days to claim their bikes but few do.

We hope to have the program up and running within six months. Meanwhile, bike owners are advised to record the serial number and size of their bicycle and to take a photo of them together with the bicycle.

—Lena Emmerly
CVIA representative to CPAB

Urban School Plans Major Expansion on Oak Street

Earlier this year, The Urban School and St. Agnes Church signed a 95-year lease of the two parish-owned parking lots along Oak Street between Ashbury and Masonic Streets. Urban is proposing to build a new athletic and academic facility, and in a second phase of the project, renovate the existing middle school gym/theater it currently leases from St. Agnes into a space for its drama and music programs.

Through the incorporation of new and repurposed buildings directly across the street from the school's current campus, the Oak Street Project gives Urban a unique opportunity to finally add a full-sized high school gym and to create a dedicated and flexible performing arts facility. The school has been in San Francisco since 1966 and in the Haight Ashbury neighborhood since 1977 and has never had its own high school-sized court, nor full-size theater.

The Oak Street Project's academic and athletic building will include 5-7 additional classrooms and office space, seating for the entire student body, a full-sized court and locker rooms, as well as



underground parking to be used by the school and by St. Agnes Parish. The addition of much needed academic space will allow Urban to modestly increase the current maximum enrollment from 380 to 420 students over a four-year period following completion of the project, which the school anticipates will be sometime in 2016, pending city approvals and construction requirements. The Oak Street Project gives Urban the ability to serve a broader range of families in San Francisco and the Bay Area; it currently offers \$2.6 million in financial assistance to 29 percent of its students.

Over the past couple of months, Urban and St. Agnes have begun sharing their plans for this project with local neighborhood groups. The school invites the community to contact it at any time via phone (415 626 2919) or email oakstreetproject@urbanschool.org with any questions. Interested persons can also visit the Urban website at www.urbanschool.org to learn more about the school and its plans.

—Kristen Bailey
Director of Communications & Marketing
The Urban School of San Francisco

| CVIA Officers | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| President..... | Karen Crommie |
| Vice President | Shannon Cooper Hock |
| Treasurer | Joan Downey |
| Recording Secretary | Carole Glosenger |
| Membership | Lena Emmerly |
| Community Relations | Amy Blakeley |

A CLEAN COLE STREET



2013 Merchant Participants

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Alpha Market | Cole Cleaners |
| Bambino's Ristorante | Cole Hardware |
| Boulange de Cole | Crêpes on Cole |
| BurgerMeister | Padrecito |
| Postal Chase | |



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only nine 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 photo shoot. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period August 7, 2012 to August 6, 2013. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Jessica Justino & Bill Hancock, Brittny Botorff, Abby & David Rumsey, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Whitney & Mark Gilkey, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Connie Kullburg, Wallis & Michelle Lim, Linda Erkelens, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Elaine Robinson, Michael J. Sullivan, Lena Emmery & Charles Canepa, Thomas Ports & Catherine Covey, Marianne Hesse, Carol Glosenger, Joan Downey, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Robin & Richard Hornung, Susan Hills, Kay Bertram, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Ellen Curry, John & Molly Hooper, Harold & Lyn Isbell, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Sheila & P.J. Brooker, Dennis Martino, MeMe Riordan, Elsa Rosenberg, Richard Taylor & Nancy Grubbs, Tina & Oliver Brock, Todd & Dag Frederick, Chris Broderick, Susan & Steven Rosen, Ellena Ochoa & Ted Ridgeway, Mary Ann Wolcott, Robert Bakewell, Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram, Gerardo Joffe, Megan and Bruce Bourne, Bill O'Such & Ineke Ruhland, Sam Truslow, Deborah Van Atta, Maryann Hrichak, Barbara Mow, Monica & Jeremy Becker, Minette Gutfreund, Beth David Zuckerman.

Cviasf@aol.com

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

FAIR ELEVENTH ANNUAL

★ COLE VALLEY ★



SUN | ★ | SEPT 29

10 to 5 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar

There's art, there's music, old cars to marvel at, an exhibit of historic neighborhood photos (featuring "Red Hill"), a jumpy house for the kids, balloon animals, face painting, a cornucopia of things to buy, to eat and to see. The 11th annual Cole Valley Fair, now produced by Midline, the gym at 515 Frederick Street, and organized by one of its owners, Erica Kajdasz, will return to Cole Valley on Sunday, September 29. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Let the good times roll.

Street Closure on Fair Day

Cole closed between Carl & Grattan

Parnassus closed between Belvedere & Shrader

Four blocks will be closed to cars on Sunday, September 29, for the 11th Annual Cole Valley Fair. If you live in this area, you will not be able to park and access will be limited from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you need to use a car parked in a garage or an off-street parking area, you'll want to move it to an area outside of the closed blocks before the closure.

Midline apologizes for the inconvenience this may cause you. Contact us at colevalleyfair@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

Martin Mack's Parklet Bites the Dust

It was with mixed feeling that I watched the curbside brick structure in front of Martin Mack's being deconstructed. Not because I loved it. No, it was underused and misused, with a series of hanging plants that went from green to brown in cyclical rotation. But I



With the opportunity to sit in an open window while enjoying a brew, maybe Martin Mack's didn't need the parklet after all.

remember watching former owner Brian Molony crouched with a trowel full of mortar stacking brick over brick with the intensity of a master builder. (I'm easily pushed to nostalgia.) Molony is long gone in a contentious takeover generating wounded egos and no small amount of discredit.

Present owner Vivian Walsh (a guy) was quoted by Andrea Koskeyas in the *SF Examiner* as saying that he thinks the rules surrounding parklets could be made clearer. (A valid point, made in the CVIA NEWS in its Spring 2012 edition) "We were never given any guidelines or requirements," Walsh said. "For us to comply, you can't smoke in the bar so we have to send people outside, then we go outside and tell them they can't smoke in the parklet either." Nor could they drink alcoholic beverages, a deal breaker for an Irish Pub.

—Karen Crommie



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.

SAVE THE DATE!
CVIA SUMMER SOCIAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

(See Article on Page 1)

Supervisor Breed Checks In

Supervisor London Breed met with Cole Valley residents on a June afternoon at Juliet Pries' popular Ice Cream Bar on Cole. Neighbors signed up to discuss issues such as the 209 Grattan demolition, the odor from Bacon Bacon, smoking in front of bars and indigent kids at the entrance to Alvord Lake.

Each of the city's eleven supervisors has a newsletter in which they flog their accomplishments and that's a good thing. They put in long hours, attend countless meetings and most maintain an "open door" policy to neighbors with a beef. They work hard and deserve to toot their own horn a bit.



Supervisor Breed held "office hours" at The Ice Cream Bar on June 22. On the left is CVIA board member Carole Glosenger.

Breed's newsletter reminds us that, as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, she was able to restore over \$500K for youth services, including: transitional aged youth (age 18-24), especially for the youth of public housing.

"We also were able to secure funding to enhance homeless services, particularly in the Haight Ashbury. Additionally I secured funding to resurface Kezar track."

But Breed didn't only *spend* taxpayer money. Bucking the criticism of some neighbors, she helped broker a deal to help the Botanical Garden be financially sustainable in future years. (See article on page 9.)

Neighborhood Stores Must Start Redeeming Bottles and Cans

When the Recycling Center on Frederick was closed earlier this year, it triggered a review by the State of California, which enforces the 1986 Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act (generally known as the "bottle bill"). As a result, stores with annual sales of \$2 million or more selling recyclable bottles and cans are now obligated to redeem them for cash (California Redemption Value - CRV) over the counter or pay a fine of \$100 per day. If a supermarket, the most obvious kind of store having the square footage and personnel to do this, refuses to provide the service and instead chooses to pay the fine, as Whole Foods has opted to do, then all the other stores selling beverages within a half-mile radius must offer recycling or pay the fine too. Most Cole Valley and Haight Ashbury merchants have received their third notice, which means they must start to comply.

The fact that San Francisco has curbside recycling doesn't seem to mitigate this law, although it should. The problem, of course, is the persistent stealing from the blue boxes and the need by the thieves to receive cash for great quantities of material. Whereas a small store could handle normal household recycling, they cannot handle that kind of bulk. In addition to the time required to count, sort and store quantities of cans and bottles, there is the problem of transporting them to a recycling center where they must be counted again for the merchant to recover his loss.

Last week Safeway announced that it will close down the recycling center located on the edge of its property at Market and Church on September 6. Like the HANC Recycling Center, this was part of SF Community Recyclers managed by Ed Dunn. Its closure and will have the same effect on smaller stores in that area.

Limits on Golden Gate Park “Night Life”

Currently, our municipal code—unlike other major American cities—does not set any park hours, which has led to a patchwork of informal park hours that are inconsistent and very difficult to enforce.



Supervisor Scott Weiner wants to establish closing hours for the city's parks.

This lack of enforceable closing hours has led to a significant problem of nighttime vandalism, metal theft, and dumping in our parks. Last week, at the Board of Supervisors, I introduced legislation establishing a uniform statutory rule that all parks are open between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and midnight (i.e., closed from midnight to 5 a.m.), with an exception for the use of any road or adjacent sidewalk for the purpose of traversing the park. San Francisco is the only major American City without established park hours—New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Austin, Portland and Seattle, just to name a few, all have park closing hours for a five to seven hour period at night. The Recreation and Park Department estimates that vandalism and illegal dumping in city parks, almost all of which occurs at night, cost the city nearly \$1 million a year in staff costs and maintenance expenses. By establishing park closure hours, Park Patrol and the Police will have another tool to fight against these kinds of property crimes that cost our city valuable resources to repair and remove.

—Supervisor Scott Weiner

“Get Off Our Farm”

To those of us who lived through the protracted honing of the Market Octavia Plan (infill transit-oriented housing replacing the downed freeway), it was bitterly ironic that the Hayes Valley “farmers,” who were given a temporary lease to the space from the city, wouldn’t give it back.



Urban gardeners protest the closing of Hayes Valley Farms.

To the point of demonstrations requiring dozens of cops in riot shields, gloves and nightsticks circling the perimeter of the area and blocking traffic. At this late date in the history of that landmark project, the demonstrators said they were protesting the construction of market rate housing (or in their terms “high-priced condominiums”). Where’s the acknowledgement of long sought community-vetted planning and, yeah, maybe just a little gratitude for nearly four years of free garden plots?

—Karen Crommie

Thoughts About Haight Street

We have three second-hand clothing stores on Haight Street—La Rosa Vintage Boutique, Held Over, and Haight Ashbury Vintage (formerly Aardvark). These stores have been in the Haight for almost 30 years. Sales in all three stores are down. Sales in our other locations in the Mission and in Berkeley are up! It’s not the recession or the missing tourists: It’s Haight Street, period.

A few weeks ago I was standing in front of my store when I was hit in the face. A crazy lady walks up, talks to me and suddenly hits me in the face and runs off. I didn’t know what happened.

Every day we have to clean up storefronts, sidewalks and sometimes even inside the store. My employees have to deal with aggressive street kids all the time. My friends tell me, “Too much dog shit to step in on Haight street.”

Some suggestions to make things better:

- Pass a city ordinance (like that in Santa Cruz on Pacific Avenue.) That there are “No dogs allowed” between Masonic and Stanyan Street and a one-block radius. People who live here and need to walk their dogs would be issued a permit. Since we now have the “no sit, no lie” ordinance, the transient kids are now standing, with



Doing business on Haight Street has unique challenges.

their dogs laying down. If you ban the dogs their owners will not be there either.

- Maybe a private security service should be hired to support the police. How much can that be, paying two people eight hours a day to patrol Haight Street if everybody chips in?

- Then, the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association (HAMA) and the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association (HAIA) and individual stores should bombard the city Supervisors with requests to provide faster and better police service.

- City Hall needs to be made aware of how much sales tax they are losing.

I’m also concerned about the “Melrose” syndrome. Melrose used to be a great shopping street in LA, now it’s even more depressing than Haight Street. It kills the flavor: too many stores selling nothing but cheap goods made in China. Stores carrying only sunglasses, or only hats, or only jewelry—just like any stupid mall. Landlords should be choosier about who they rent to. In the long run, money is not everything. Let’s make some changes before it gets worse.

—Werner Werwie, President
Retro City Fashions, Inc.

Cole Valley Neighbors Form Group to Address Break-ins

With the increase of crime across the city—and our little neighborhood not exempt from that—a number of citizens are taking matters into their own hands. On July 29, 2013 a dark green Honda CRV was stolen from the corner of Shrader and Carmel streets, right smack dab in front the owners’ house. They woke not only to find their car missing, but another surprise—a silver Honda CRV, stolen from Davis, CA parked in their driveway.

Spurred by this incident and the gunpoint robbery on Cole and Carmel a couple of months earlier, a group of neighbors gathered to discuss the problem and exchange contact information. Together they decided to reach out to San Francisco SAFE to talk about how best to stay, well, safe. The nonprofit organization works with the SFPD to engage people in taking an active role in creating safe neighborhoods.

The local organizers have approached over 150 residences in the areas of upper Cole Valley (Carmel, Belgrave, upper Cole, Shrader, and Stanyon streets) and solidified local leads and group communications. We will continue to report on activities from this group in this newsletter and other CVIA outlets. Bravo to this group of citizens for taking safety measures into their own hands. Others outside of these areas that are looking to set up a similar network are encouraged to contact San Francisco SAFE.

In the meantime, Captain Greg Corrales of Park District Police is stepping up undercover patrols. In addition, Captain Mike Denson from the UCSF Police Department said that their staff has a one-mile jurisdiction around the campus perimeter and will increase both uniformed and undercover patrols in the area.

—Chris Hock

Nominees for New Officers

The following CVIA board members have been nominated to hold offices in 2013-14. 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.

Call for News

We need news items, articles, letters, opinion pieces. Please tell us what you know about Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury: handwritten, type-



written, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 628 Ashbury St. or cviasf@aol.com

Booksmith Opens the World of Letters (and Stamps) to the Next Generation

Ever want to write a letter to a pen pal in a distant land, secretly hide a letter for someone else to discover, or imagine the kind of letter a pencil would write to his friend, paper?

Come discover the art of writing all kinds of letters, how much fun it is to send and receive them and how much about history we can learn by reading letters from long ago.

“Take My Word For It!” is a word incubator—a place where kids can feel safe and supported while they grow as writers—in schools and in the communities of the Bay Area. Its creative writing programs, facilitated by professional writing coaches, and designed especially for young authors, remind kids that when it comes to their imaginations, the sky’s the limit. We are so excited to once again present these sessions. Please join us for our fall session, “Stamps and Letters,” at The Booksmith (for reluctant and enthusiastic writers alike)! We’ll announce our new professional facilitator soon.



The fee is \$180 with a sibling discount of 10 percent available when two or more children from the same family are registered.

The ten-session course is limited to 25 children from ages 8 to 13 and runs from Sunday, September 15 through Sunday, November 17 from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. at the Booksmith, 1644 Haight Street.

Register online at www.booksmith.com.

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)



September 10, October 8 and November 12
Mark Your Calendars

Refreshments plus raffle of “much coveted but seldom bestowed” prizes

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know at [CVIASF@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com)

Final Approval Given to Re-surface Kezar Track

The Kezar Advisory Committee has been diligently working to have city funds approved for the replacement of the track at the stadium. Marc Christensen, vice-chair, has been instrumental in bringing all the various Kezar track users into the battle.

CVIA, along with other members of the committee and community, made several appearances before the Recreation and Parks



The Kezar track serves not only school athletic programs but also organized adult groups such as "Boot Camp," as well as being an integral part of the personal exercise regimens of scores of Cole Valley neighbors.

Commission and the Budget Committee. Our efforts have been a success! I am happy to report that funds for the track have been approved. Work will likely start during the summer of 2014.

—Lena Emmerly
Chair, Kezar Advisory Committee

Farmers Market and Food Trucks are Where the Action is Two Nights a Week

The Upper Haight Farmers Market returned to Waller and Stanyan Streets a few weeks ago. It opens a half hour earlier this year, at 3:00 p.m. every Wednesday afternoon and stays open until 7:00. Manager Luke Walton says, "We're excited to meet new faces and look forward to a successful and enjoyable season for everyone."



Thursday is Eat From a Truck Day in Cole Valley. Like Gypsy camps, the caravans assemble every Thursday night at Stanyan and Waller—the same location as the Farmers Market the day before and the same location as the skateboard park every other time.

This time the food is aromatic, widely varied and (yes!) already prepared. Among the mostly young people who gather to eat and drink in situ, there are others with shallow boxes who are taking the dishes home to hungry families. Nobody has to cook on Thursday nights, at least until November when they close for the winter.

Boys and Girls Club: Last Act?

Late last year the Boys and Girls Club of San Francisco acquired a parcel of land at Futon and Gough streets on which they plan to build a clubhouse with a pool, gym and community center for teens. The *SF Examiner's* Joshua Sabatini reported in January that the president of the club, Rob Connolly, said the organization had been looking for the past five years to build a new clubhouse in the area because its Page Street facility was in poor condition.

The city sold the parcel of land for a price considerably below its estimated market value of \$8.4 million because it felt that the neighborhood was in dire need of a youth-serving recreation hub. As Sabatini points out, "It would cost the city millions more to build such a facility on its own."

If they do move, it will leave one of the neighborhood's largest parcels of real estate (32,000 square feet) up for grabs. It is valuable property, zoned for residential development (RM2, residential, moderate density) and could accommodate 40-60 units. No permits have yet appeared on the Planning Department's website.

But for as much good as the club accomplished, providing recreational activities for youth, it also vexed Page Street neighbors with the institutionalized practice of double parking. In fact there is a website, Chaos on Page Street, dedicated to chronicling misuse of the roadway by Boys and Girls Club clients (<http://www.chaosonpage.com>) and urging the Department of Traffic to designate the block a "double fine" zone.



Will residential development cure the double parking problem on Page Street?

Will maximum development of this site create another long battle in the neighborhood as did the proposed residential building (approximately the same size) at the Whole Foods site? Probably.

—Karen Crommie



What is this? And what is it used For? Answer on Page 11

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last four 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 is no meeting in December. Call 431-1414 to learn the location.

Every meeting begins with a review of the last meeting's minutes and reports from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), Graffiti Abatement Committee, and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

May

Location: Home of Karen and David Crommie - May 6, 2013

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,085.26 in savings, \$8,353.36 in checking, out of which \$5,941.28 is held in the Clean Cole Street fund.

■ Lena Emmery reported that money has been approved for resurfacing of the Kezar track and is awaiting approval from the Mayor. She also said that, with other members of the Community Police Advisory Board, she had toured the SFPD's evidence warehouse storing 1,200 stolen bicycles. \$4.5 million worth of bikes were stolen last year.

■ Joan said that the Carl Street road construction is being completed. Currently Muni lines are being rewired and work is being carried out without notifying neighbors.

■ Marianne Hesse reported that the Waller Center is trying to persuade community organizations to use their facility. Discussed how CVIA might help this effort. Karen will invite on site manager Matthew Pearson to speak at future meeting.

■ Chuck Canepa reported that an AT&T (U-Verse) refrigerator size utility box is being installed at Parnassus and Woodland.

■ It was announced that Chris Hock has accepted an invitation to join the CVIA Board of Directors. He was welcomed with a round of applause.

■ Guest Susan Strolis and Ted Loewenberg reported that the Friends of Alford Lake has been formally recognized by the San Francisco Park Alliance. They held a "vision" meeting with project manager Marion Coss. CVIA voted to donate \$200 to the group.

Adjourned at 9:50.

June

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger - June 3, 2013

■ Lena Emmery reported on her tour of the SFPD's warehouse (evidence room) for stolen bikes and gave the stats on that crime, which is pervasive in the city. She also reviewed the problem of cell phone thefts and the need for a mechanism—used widely in Europe—that renders a phone useless (kill switch) when stolen.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,085.26 in savings, \$8,353.36 in checking, out of which \$5,356.28 is held in the Clean Cole Street fund. Joan also said that Erica Kajdasz, the Cole Valley Fair's new organizer, gave her "okay" to reprint last year's t-shirt, but without the date or sponsors.

■ Amy Blakeley is working on an online membership option using PayPal. The problem is that PayPal does not currently offer the opportunity to ask the questions we currently have on our membership application. She will ask member Mark Ballew to assist. Amy will also investigate hidden costs of using Squareup.com for signing up new members on line. Cost is 85 cents per use.

■ Joan Downey reported on a state law change which requires drivers using handicapped plaques to feed meters. She also reviewed a study of SF Muni lines pursuant to the Title 6 requirements on equal service to minorities. The 37 Corbett was deemed the least used by minorities.

■ Ron Walton of Recology made a presentation on their proposed rate hikes. As part of the deal, Recology has taken over DPW's task of picking of abandoned waste (311 calls), which shifts the cost from the city to the ratepayer. Residential accounts are billed every three months. Stealing from bins cost Recology approximately \$5 million a year. "We hardly get any bottles or cans anymore," said Walton. To that end, Recology is producing warning signs to go inside the lid citing the violation. This will make it easier for the police to cite offenders.

■ Joan Downey noted that CleanScapes, the company CVIA contracts to perform the daily cleaning of the Cole Street commercial corridor, has recently been bought by Recology.

Adjourned 9:45 p.m.

July

Location: Home of Douglas Hall – July 1, 2013

■ Lena Emmery reported that the co-chair of the Kezar Advisory Committee Marc Christensen, said the money for the track resurfacing is in the city's capital budget and has been approved by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors.

■ In her review of the Community Police Advisory Board, Lena also reported that funding for a bike licensing program is in the works. The SF Bicycle Coalition finally came on board with the plan. The Citizens Safety Committee is providing the funds.

■ David Crommie reported that Park Police Station's monthly community meeting featured Lt. Mario Delgadillo from Homeland Security. He said they have placed video surveillance cameras at City Hall and elsewhere around the city in key places, including boats on the bay, to monitor activities. Capt. Corrales said they are still seeking private funding for defibrillators for patrol cars.

■ Karen Crommie reported that the June meeting of the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods featured a presentation by former mayor Art Agnos and former city manager Rudy Nothenberg opposing the proposed Warriors arena on the waterfront. They were representing the SF Waterfront Alliance.

■ Cole Valley Fair: Amy Blakeley gave a full report on the Squareup.com payment option. The device, which attaches to an iPhone, would allow Cole Valley Fairgoers to purchase items at the CVIA booth using a credit card. Chuck Canepa said that he has received 12 applications for displaying vehicles in the vintage car show—some new and some returning. We also discussed selling last year's t-shirt without the 2012 back-side information. We will do a study to see if it will be profitable.

■ In the aftermath of the Recycling Center closing, Alpha Market has received its third notice from the State of California that they must redeem bottles and cans or pay a \$3,000 per month exemption charge—the response chosen by Whole Foods. Alpha Market owner Abe Saba says, he will comply by receiving recyclables but has doubts about his ability to store, sanitize and inventory quantities of recyclable bottles and cans.

■ Douglas Hall reported that Bacon, Bacon has closed its Frederick Street kitchen and is starting over, this time getting the proper equipment and permits.

■ Chris Hock reported that, as a result of a upper Shrader Street home break in—and similar incidents in the past, there will be a SF SAFE meeting on July 22 at 1591 Shrader. Chris and Shannon

Cooper Hock will attend and report. SF SAFE representatives would like to expand the program in Cole Valley and have volunteers to service as area captains.

■ There was a presentation by Matt Pearson, operations manager of the Waller Center – formerly the Hamilton Methodist Church – discussing the plans for the facility and their hopes to provide meeting space for neighborhood activities. Right now they host service groups (performing “urban missions”). With Two private dorm rooms and bunk beds, they will have a capacity for 35 people. But with only five showers, capacity is limited. The gym is ready for basketball games while the Chapel needs more work. They hope to eventually rent the space for weddings. They look forward to hosting community events and making the space more accessible to more people.

■ Urban School director Susan Munn described the expansion plans for the school. The Saint Agnes parking lot on Oak street will be replaced by a two story building housing a gym and classrooms. Parking will be on the street level and a level below. They are building within the 42 foot height limit and possibly adding a rooftop play area set back from the street. They negotiated a 95-year lease from the St. Agnes Church (approved by the Vatican). The board members were supportive of the project and president Karen Crommie will write a letter of support to the planning department .

Adjournment 9:00 p.m.

August

Location: Home of Marianne Hesse – August 5, 2013

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,085.37 in savings, \$5,660.22 in checking for a total of \$17,746.59, out of which \$5,356.28 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the SFPD has been allocated funds (\$75,000) to initiate a bicycle registration program. Spearheaded by Morgan St. Clair, SF SAFE’s public safety coordinator, who reached out to the Bicycle Coalition and convinced them that it would be a powerful tool to recover lost bikes. The program is coordinated by Lt. Matt Friedman of Mission Station, who also is developing a program to remove stolen bikes from being resold at local flea markets.

■ Board member Chuck Canepa has been appointed to a position on the Kezar Advisory Committee. (He already serves as our representative to the UCSF Citizens’ Advisory Committee.)

■ Agreed that CVIA will become a contributing sponsor of this year’s Cole Valley Fair.

■ Agreed to write a letter supporting Bevan Dufty’s attempt to secure housing for indigent youth at a remodeled SRO in the Mission, with the hope it will reduce overnight camping in neighborhood parks.

■ Agreed to send out postcards to members reminding them of the Summer Social coming up on August 24 using either PSprint or ExpressCopy.com.

■ John Gavin, project manager for the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development made a presentation on the proposed waterfront arena for the Golden State Warriors at Piers 30-32. Board members were concerned about encroachment into the bay, impaired vistas of bridge and bay, 13% financing to be paid for by the city, traffic impact on days when Giants are playing, and the lack of any public parking. (Please consult their website or sfgate.com for a summary of the plan.)

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.

Street Kids Could Get a Chance for Housing

In the last issue of CVIA News, we printed an article examining some of the reasons for the growth in numbers of homeless youth. The Haight Ashbury is, of course, ground zero for this segment of the indigent population. For that reason it was very interesting that Bevan Dufty, SF Director of Housing Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement (HOPE) approached the board of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association, to ask for support in his effort to establish a



As director of HOPE, Bevan Dufty is gathering support for housing indigent youth.

facility at 374 Fifth Street for housing “transitional age” youth (frequently former foster care kids, ages 18 to 29).

Dufty is working with Mary Howe, the long-time director of the Homeless Youth Alliance (Haight near Clayton), who agreed that the newly-renovated former SRO with its 44

units, as well as financing from a federal housing program fund, would be put to best use for this segment of the homeless population.

“We’ve asked Bevan and Mary what they think might help reduce the numbers of homeless we see in the Haight. They have told us that the homeless youth here often refuse the beds offered in the Tenderloin because of the toxic environment, hard core drug abuse and violence there,” said Christin Evans, Haight Ashbury Merchants Association board member. “Today, San Francisco’s beds available to homeless adults don’t differentiate whether you are 18 or 45. The idea we’d like to see tested is whether or not having a place focused on transitional age youth will reduce the number of individuals we see on our streets.”

—Karen Crommie

Botanical Garden Management in Question

Who knew that Golden Gate Park’s Botanical Garden (alias Strybing Arboretum) was such a touchy subject to so many people? The SF Bay Guardian was shocked, shocked that not only is the non-resident fee locked into a 10-year period (exceptions made for organized groups of non-resident school children) but the Supes also approved a measure to allow construction of a new nursery. What’s not to like? Wait. This is San Francisco.

Yes, the nursery management will be handed over to the SF Botanical Garden Society, a non-profit that has supported the gardens since 1955. Even though the new agreement includes replacing the 4,600 square foot greenhouse with one twice as large, there are some people who vehemently object, seeing it as a privatization move apparently because the SFBGS will have the privilege of throwing fundraising events in the new nursery. Big deal. Welcome to the 21st century world of public-private financing. Supervisor John Avalos was quoted as saying “ They’re making it more exclusive!” Ever see the City Hall Rotunda during Oracle’s annual party?



—Karen Crommie

Bay to Breakers: Survey Shows Room for Improvement

The District 5 consortium of neighborhood groups called D5-Neighborhood Action Committee (D5NAC) issued a survey of its members (CVIA among them) to gauge how neighbors felt the Bay to Breakers went this year. The results showed that efforts of the last couple of years have been paying off but the sheer numbers of people and the evolution of this event into a day of permissible wackiness makes control challenging. Some of the comments follow:

☞ This was my sixth B2B race while living on the route. I've seen an improvement over the years, particularly due to more porta potties. However, the post-race clean-up was terrible this year. It seemed as though they cleaned the race route but the adjacent street (500 block of Scott) was still COVERED in trash and very disgusting.



☞ As usual, everybody did a great job except the self-involved fools who just used it as an excuse to party uninvited at other people's places. I vote for moving it to California Street next year, some nice hills there.

Broadway would be even better, give folks a good look at the economic and cultural range of the city, with smaller hills.

☞ Lots of broken glass - a bit nervous for my dog.
 ☞ Wish the trash in Alamo Square got picked up Sunday evening.
 ☞ I saw way more trash on the street this year than in years past.
 ☞ I deeply appreciate the work of the neighborhood associations, police and supervisors to make the day more tolerable for residents. (But) our streets are still covered in glass which is disturbing. This year however I did not witness anyone peeing on buildings nor did I need to stop folks from peeing in my neighbor's yard. That was appreciated. This race is improving. Thanks for the hard work.

☞ I've lived in this neighborhood for 13 years, and every year I have had to endure this race going through the 'hood. It has gotten much better with the help of the association and police presence, but I still hate this day every year. If I leave my neighborhood for any reason, I will never find parking again. It would be nice if there were a way to cut down on traffic that goes through as well. People drive very quickly looking for parking or trying to get around the race, so they fly down our streets. I also dislike how the panhandle is full of these fools all day. Basically any direction I try to go in the neighborhood on this day there are drunken idiots everywhere. I also have dogs, which I wouldn't dare walk with all of the broken glass that these fools leave behind.



A quick analysis shows the following: 99 people completed the survey and 88.3 percent of respondents felt the race was better or the same compared to last year.

—Jarie Bolander
 D5NAC Coordinator

UCSF's Construction Plans

In 1976, the Regents of the University of California made a commitment to neighbors of the UC San Francisco Parnassus campus to limit development of the campus to 3.55 million gross square feet. Known as the "space ceiling," UCSF's development limits mean that to make way for new research buildings like the Regeneration Medicine Building, some older buildings must be torn down or repurposed in the coming years.

A meeting was held on July 31 specifically to inform the neighborhood of the planned demolition of the current structure located at 374 Parnassus (corner of Hillway), planned to begin in September 2013, with construction of a plaza to follow soon after.

This was the first showing of a proposed plan for an outdoor plaza at the sidewalk level, 20-30 feet deep, on the lot with seating mainly to serve the bus stop in front of the plaza. The plan has an eight-foot tall retaining wall at the back of the plaza, backed by a steep green space (rainwater dispersion area) with no public access. The proposal showed that the existing stairs on west side of the lot (access to the parking lot below) will be rebuilt in the same location, with low-level stair lighting.

Most of the community members who attended the meeting seemed to approve the present plaza concept in general but raised questions about keeping the staircase in the same place rather than relocating it to the east side of the site adjacent to the sidewalk for added safety/security.

Others thought a wind study should be performed for the plaza site and mitigating measures be considered. Another suggestion was to add more seating around the perimeter of the plaza (present plan shows a modest center bench structure and standing space for the back half of the plaza). The next community meeting on UCSF's Long Range Planning is scheduled for October 28 at Millberry Union at 6:30.

As a side note: A significant revelation came out after the meeting when a few of us were discussing the Fifth and Parnassus recent demolition site plans, we were informed by Director of UCSF Community Relations Barbara Bagot-López that the proposed construction has been put on indefinite hold, and that the site will be landscaped as open space.

—Chuck Canepa

Postscripts

San Francisco **Opera in the Park** will return on Saturday, September 8 from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. in Sharon Meadow. Enjoy arias al fresco as you celebrate the opening of San Francisco Opera's 91st season with stars from the fall operas, accompanied by the acclaimed San Francisco Opera Orchestra, conducted by Music Director **Nicola Luisotti**. Bring a picnic and enjoy this outdoor concert. Food and beverages will also be available for sale at the event.

* * *

The **Civil Grand Jury** has published this year's finding and they have investigated the overnight campers in Golden Gate Park, in addition to the issues around the city's homeless population elsewhere in the city. For the full report, go to: sfsuperiorcourt.org and click on 2012-13 Civil Grand Jury Report.

* * *

Joan Downey got the word from the manager of the *Peet's Coffee & Tea* store at Falletti's market. The Cole Street venue is now scheduled to open August 25.

A group of neighbors near **209 Grattan** are serious about stopping its demolition. They believe the exterior of the new building should conform to the architecture of the rest of the block. The project



requires a variance from both rear yard and front setback requirements of the Planning Code. It is a fomenting situation causing neighbors to chose sides and doubtless won't be resolved easily.

The **Grattan Playground Tennis and Basketball courts** will be temporarily closed from August 12 through September 30 for a capital improvement project by Rec and Park. This will include resurfacing the courts and improving the court equipment. The rest of the park will remain open. For more information contact **Steve Korovesis**, Project Manager at 581-2547.

After the venerable Haight Street restaurant **All You Knead** closed its doors in June, the following was posted by Cat. A. on Yelp: "All You Knead, you were amazing, creepy, dirt sexy, and delicious all at the same time. You truly will be missed."

—Karen Crommie

Answer to Quiz on Page 7

Location: Cole and Carl.

What is it and how is it used?: This is a rail lubricator that contains a reservoir of lubricant and a pump located in the stainless steel case. It is connected to the rail by tubing running underneath the roadway where it is applied directly to the rail. The lubricator was installed as part of the Carl Street Rail Replacement Project—its primary purpose is to reduce noise and wear on the rail. Who knew?

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 November 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.

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

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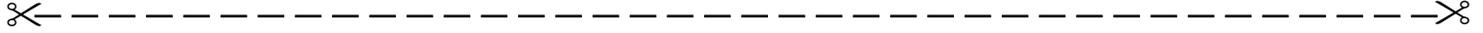
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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 _____

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
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