

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXVII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

WINTER 2014

Photo with Santa Helps Fund Clean Cole Street Program

Santa is back on Cole Street for the sixth year. Have your picture taken with Santa without the hassle of driving to the mall or waiting in long lines. AND the proceeds help fund Clean Cole Street, the project that pays for the sidewalk cleaning of our commercial area every day. Each year we've averaged over \$1,000 toward this important project.

Loic Nicolas, a professional photographer with consistent 5-star reviews on yelp and a CVIA member, came up with this



Although Santa loves children, he's also fond of dogs and cats (and sometimes even grown-ups) who are willing to sit on his lap for a photo.

fundraising idea. His photos are wonderful and he is a delight to watch while he works. We're so fortunate to have Loic as a neighbor and supporter.

Chuck Canepa is our handsome Santa. He bought his own Santa suit year before last and so is committed to another couple of years—we hope. Chuck not only looks good, but he's also great with the kids. And, yes, this is the same Chuck who organizes the car show for the Cole Valley Fair.

Maryo Mogannam graciously allows us to use Postal Chase for the event every year. Board members serve as the "elves" who usher the kids and parents through the process while trying to calm the littlest ones who are not too sure about the guy with the white beard (although ones in distress sometimes make the best photos).

Please come by with your kids, grandkids, pets, or yourself on Sunday, December 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost of the sitting is \$20 and prints are \$1- up, depending on resolution. Digital files are \$15 to \$35. Photos are available within 24 hours. See loicphoto.com/santa for more information. And spread the word!

—Joan Downey

Savage Attacks in Panhandle

A series of attacks on bicycle riders occurred in the Panhandle between October 9 and 10. Three different cyclists, riding on the bike path at night received blows to the head from men approaching them from behind. After a bottle was broken over his head, one victim fell to the ground breaking his clavicle. In some cases the riders were hit again on the ground by one thug as the other rode away on the victim's bike. In others, the victim simply ran from the scene. One rider was able to stay on his bike in spite of the blow and, although bleeding, pedaled madly away from the scene. Another rider managed to take a video of the assailants, who were described as Hispanic men between the ages of 18 and 22. Subsequently some of the bikes were posted for sale on craigslist.com.

Later it was reported that police arrested three suspects, two from Oakland and one from Daly City.



Park Station's Captain Raj Vaswani, unable to speak frankly because of the ongoing investigation, could not say if they used police decoys but did admit that Park Station's swing watch concentrated on the Panhandle. In the meantime, Vallie Brown, legislative aide to Supervisor Breed, said they are looking for video cameras to place in areas of the Panhandle that are particularly isolated. There is a midnight closing time on the books but, lacking a posted sign, it is routinely ignored.

—David Crommie

Cole Valley Fertile Ground for Holiday Shopping

Instead of shopping online this holiday season, why don't you give our local merchants the nod? If you can't find a gift at Cole Hardware, well, you just aren't looking. Cooking and bath accessories, plants and decorative pots, cool tools, fancy water bottles: gifts at all prices for every member of your family. MadKat

INSIDE

Adah Bakalinsky Steps	3	Homeless Youth Get Break	6
Assessor's Services	7	Kezar Track Rebuild	3
Airbnb Legislation	4	McLaren Tree Lighting	7
Board Minutes	8	Sami Sunchild's Legacy	5
Blows to Left	5	Summer Social 2014	10
Booksmith Brings Santana	11	Panhandle Playground	2
Buena Vista Park Grant	2	Police Meetings	4
Carl Street Glam	9	Thanks to Supporters	4
Cole Valley Fair 2014	6	UCSF Long Range Plan	10
Help!	11	Walgreens Gets Pushback	5

is full of items to pamper the most fastidious women and Alpha Market is a standby for a good bottle of spirits or a make-your-own fruit basket. And don't forget the gift certificates: BurgerMeister, where your money goes a long way, and Bambinos are two that would be particularly welcome. Peet's, Crêpes on Cole and Padrecito also provide gift certificates. For hostess gifts, don't forget a box of Boulange de Cole's macaroons. For the children on your list a sweater from Tantrum, or maybe a doll, game or book. For adult collectors of old toys, it is a treasure trove. Whatever you buy can be expertly packaged and sent at Postal Chase.

This, Just In...

■ The Kezar Triangle will not continue looking as it does without community help. The Parks Alliance is looking for volunteers to help with this mission. Involvement would require 4-6 hours per quarter. Please contact Steve Schweigerdt, Director of Stewardship at Parks Alliance. email:steves@sfparksalliance.org, phone:415-621-3260 x 118

■ Supervisor London Breed is looking for people interested in internships at her office. She stipulates a desire for hard-working, passionate people with an interest in city government and, particularly, in District 5.

■ Cole Hardware is expanding to Oakland's Rockridge neighborhood. Founded in Cole Valley in 1920, the Karp family has four stores in San Francisco and this will make the fifth.

■ Padrecitos is now open for weekend brunch starting on Fridays from 11 to 2:30, Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 2:30. Certainly a smart move considering the length of the line as Zazies.

■ In response to the city's need for teachers, a new teacher training opportunity is being offered through the SF Teacher Residency organization. Participants can earn a teaching credential from Stanford or USF at a significantly reduced cost. Find out more at <http://www.sfteacherresidency.org/apply>.

Breed Goes to Bat for Panhandle Playground

In the last issue we printed a letter sent to Supervisor London Breed regarding the condition of the Panhandle Playground. The writer was Barbara Alexander, respected head of the Belvedere Montessori Pre-school, who regularly leads neighborhood tots for exercise to the small, gated play area.



Says Alexander, "I couldn't believe it. The broken slide was replaced almost immediately. I didn't expect it, especially when the park gardener told me it would probably take months."

Seems that Breed had called Rec and Park general manager Phil Ginsburg, who responded immediately. Breed acknowledged that there is a lot more refurbishment needed in this playground, especially designated for children under six years. Breed said that she will keep trying to nudge it ahead on the Rec and Park heavily laden work schedule.

Rec and Park is responsible for 220 different parks in the city, including Camp Mather, the Small Crafts Harbor, Candlestick Park, the Urban Agriculture Program and six public golf courses. The tiny Panhandle Playground might not have high priority. Still, we got a new slide and we're thankful to Supervisor Breed.

—Karen Crommie

BVNA Hopeful for Grant

Buena Vista Neighborhood Association (BVNA) recently seized the opportunity to submit an application to the San Francisco Community Challenge Grant Program (CCG). The application requested a \$100,000 grant to help fund a Buena Vista Park Entrance Restoration Project. Neighbors committed more than \$40,000 in pledges and promises for volunteer hours and in-kind donations of materials. The project would focus on restoring and improving the main entrances to Buena Vista Park through erosion control, irrigation, tree work, landscaping and historic features.

The main goals are both to reduce erosion while also making the entrances more visually attractive—increasing usage and enjoyment of the park and to contribute to the longevity and sustainability of the park with appropriate landscape materials and new irrigation.



Buena Vista neighbors opened their wallets to contribute matching funds.

If received, the grant will cover planning and design for four key entrances and the restoration of at least one.

Thanks to neighbor Isabel Wade for leading the grant writing, along with Craig Latker and David Burke for putting together additional pieces of the application. Thanks also to those neighbors who wrote letters of support and especially to those who pledged donations needed to reach the matching dollar amount required by CCG.

Finally, we most appreciate the support of Steve Cismowski, Park Services Manager for Buena Vista (Rec and Park), who approved our proposed project and wrote a letter of support as partner.

We plan to submit an application to the next round of the Community Opportunity Fund Program (COF) due in early 2015. Any neighbors who have ideas for grants or fundraising for park improvements are most welcome to share them with the BVNA Steering Committee. Please email David Burke at info@bvnasf.org.

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Fall edition should be sent before February 1, 2015 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.

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

Haight Street Event Draws Overwhelming Numbers

The Haight Street Music and Merchants Street Festival on September 7 was had the blessing of the Haight Street Merchants Association but was sponsored by a group of retailers selling skate board “culture” clothing, among them Black Scale, Pink Dolphin, Diamond Supply Company, Derby San Francisco, FTC, Cukui, and Fresh Apparel. It wasn't exactly the “Haight Street Fair without booths,” as some described it, because instead of bands, it featured DJs, yes, people playing records, renown in that population. Do the names DJ Lo Down Loretta Brown or DJ Talib Kweli mean anything to you? I thought so.



Photo: Camden Avery, Hoodline

With a crowd estimated at 40,000, any serious incident would have severely challenged police and fire responders.

But, I exaggerate. Actually three bands made an appearance, but they took second place to the spinners and weren't even mentioned in the advance publicity. If we're talking numbers, it was a fantastic success. Haight Street was shoulder to shoulder as people crowded 100-deep around the three stages. In the middle of the blocks there were break dancers, skate board demonstrations, fancy cars on parade but no food. Good for the market, cafes and liquor stores. And that was supposedly the point. However, the cost of the event (rerouting Muni, mandatory police presence, stage production) was way over \$30,000. I tried to “follow the money” but simply couldn't make economic sense of it. Particularly when Pink Dolphin closed their doors in the afternoon. As I squeezed my way between the thousands of young people, most holding beer cans wrapped in crumpled brown bags, I kept thinking of the Bob Dylan lyric, “Something is happening here and you don't know what it is. Do you, Mister Jones.”

The neighbors had their own take on the day. The following are posts on Hoodline.com, the neighborhood blog run by Camden Avery of Booksmith.

Can't thank whoever programmed the Masonic stage enough for exposing my kids to the troupe of wannabee gangsters screaming “f---” and “n---r” at the top of their lungs at around 1:30 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon. Great choice! Bouncy castle one block; wack-ass thugs cussing their minds out to the sounds of shotguns being cocked the next. Everyone around looked mortified. Thanks again! (The Colonel)

Isn't this the third event that shut down Haight Street this year? [In addition to this, there was] the Haight Street Fair and the “4/20” festival, for which they closed the street. It seems like a bit much

for one street. I admit, I have no love for street festivals, but I'm fine with one per street per year because that seems reasonable. Not okay with three per year... especially on Haight Street, because let's face it - any fair where Haight street is involved is going to attract people who want to get hammered, and hammered people cause issues like public urinating, littering and drunkenness. There's enough of all three of that on Haight already. I propose we either combine the three celebrations, or move this one to 27th Avenue. (cheapbook)

—Karen Crommie

Kezar Stadium Update



Photo: Lena Emmerly

Work is progressing on the track replacement at Kezar Stadium. The entire stadium is buzzing with workers and equipment to bring the new track to a timely completion. Re-opening is scheduled for the first week of February 2015.

Neglected Stairway Gets Attention at Long Last

There is an exciting community effort underway since last year to enhance the beauty and wildlife potential of the stairway park leading down from Buena Vista Ave East to the corner of Broderick and Waller streets. The new park was named in 2013 in tribute to Adah Bakalinsky, our San Franciscan walking guru and author of Stairway Walks in San Francisco. At Adah's initiation, a community effort has come together to improve the stairway and adjacent open space, backed by the stewardship assistance of Nature in the City



The stairs are named in honor of Adah Bakalinsky, author of SF walking guides.

and the planning advice and infrastructure repair of Koa Pickering of SF Department of Public Works (DPW). Planning and design of the site have taken place under the leadership of neighbors and landscape architects Bonnie Fisher and Boris Dramov. While dramatic improvements have taken place under the guidance of Amber Hasselbring of Nature in the City.

Over a 2-3 day period during the week of October 20, DPW took a major step forward with the implementation of the neighborhood and city approved plan. This work included removing old concrete and installing new concrete to create a widened area for planting, relocating the granite curb and installing the foundation for a new balustrade that is planned for the top of the stair. Stewardship activities take place monthly, for dates and times contact info@bvna.org.

—David Burke, BVNA

A CLEAN COLE STREET



Our Neighborhood Heroes

2014 Merchant Participants

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Alpha Market | Bambinos |
| Boulangé de Cole | BurgerMeister |
| Cole Cleaners | Cole Hardware |
| Crêpes on Cole | MadKat |
| Padrecito | Postal Chase |

Tantrum*

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM



Captain Raj Vaswani 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).

January 13, February 10 and March 10
Mark Your Calendars

What the "Airbnb" Legislation Means to Cole Valley

The Board of Supervisors on October 7 approved (7-4) draconian legislation, which effectively rezones all residential neighborhoods by opening them to legal rental by tourists.

For the property owners, it means making sure that their tenants are reminded of the "no subletting" clause in their lease. If there is none, negotiations or a new lease need to be written. If tenants break their lease agreement by "sharing" they cannot be evicted for the first incident. However, there is a strong case for eviction after the third time.

For renters "sharing" their units with visitors using the websites Craigslist, Airbnb, Vacation Rental By Owner, Flipkey, or other short-term rental agencies, it means adherence to a list of new rules including: registering with the city, informing the landlord, using the unit as a primary residence, collecting the city's 14 percent hotel tax and carrying \$500,000 in liability insurance. In no case may they charge more than the rent they are paying the landlord. The new rules are to take effect in February 2015.

—Karen Crommie



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only eleven Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district this year, which costs CVIA \$936 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a sizeable discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the Santa on Cole photo shoot. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period January 1 to October 2014. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Benefactors (\$250 - \$500): *Brittney Bottorff & Asim Bhansali, Jessica Justino & Bill Hancock, Loic Nicolas, Abby & David Rumsey, Les Silverman & Irv Govan*

Donors (\$100 - \$249): *Anonymous, Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, Sheila & P.J. Brooker, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Karen & David Crommie, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Diane & Christopher Davies, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Virginia Joosen, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Eileen Lemus, Janan New, Jane & Michael Miller, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Rosemary Southwood, Jill Wolcott & Mitchell J. Olejko*

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): *Joan Boyd, Gina Centoni, Linda Erkelens & Ronald Dion, Kate Ditzler & Stuart Gasner, Dag & Todd Frederick, Ryan Floyd, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Douglas Hall, Marianne Hesse, Molly & John Hooper, Robin & Richard Hornung, Tracy & Patrick Jennings, Colleen Kavanagh, Wallis & Michelle Lim, John R. Manning, Kendra & William Robbins, Elaine Robinson, Susan & Steven Rosen, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Sigrid Schafmann, Michael J. Sullivan, Mary Ann Wolcott*

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): *Kathleen Bertram, Jeanne Blamey & Robert Fram, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Joan Boyd, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Chris Broderick, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Beverley Epstein, Mary Ann de Sousa, Joan Downey & Ilie Gaceu, John Fricke & Lindsey Criswell, Gloria Galindo, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Carole Glosenger, Gerardo Joffe, Dennis Martino, Jane & Michael Miller, Olympia & Douglas Montgomery, Barbara Mow, Tom Nicoll, Robert Page, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Ellen Rashbaum, MeMe Riordan, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman, Deborah Van Atta, William Villaroel*

Boosters (\$24 and below): *Kay Auciello, Rob Bakewell, Judith Bishop, Tina & Oliver Brock, Ellen Curry, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Minette Gutfreund, Janet & Mark Hall, Beth & Beau Harrington, Maryann Hrichak, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vognsen, David Keller, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Laraine Stein, Suene & Eric Waldman*

*Our Sincere Apology...

to TANTRUM, who is one of our Neighborhood Heroes but whose name did not appear as such in our last newsletter. Please forgive us. And, thank you, again.

Sami Sunchild's Beloved Hotel Changes Hands

The venerable Red Victorian Bed & Breakfast at (1665 Haight Street) owned for so many years by the last of the flower children, Sami Sunchild, who died on July 3 last year, has been leased by a self-described "team" of people who seemed to be from a group



Photo: Haightersgonhaight.wordpress.com

The late Sami Sunchild, a Ph.D. in Transformational Art and Societal Change, bought the property when she was 52 years old.

called Open Door, dedicated to "intentional communities." They describe their concept as "a cultural experiment combining the concept of co-living with the resources, scale and public visibility of a hotel." It doesn't make sense to me but I'm sure Sami is looking down on them with approval.

The team is engaged in a massive refurbishing project—mostly done by themselves, their friends, and a few select craftsmen. They have chronicled it all on redvictorian.tumblr.com

The hotel re-opened its third floor on September 1 and has rooms available for rent at a variety of prices. They're still refreshing the rooms on the second floor. No private toilets as I could see. The ground floor is where serious remodeling is taking place. The vast space once housed Sunchild's gallery and "Peaceful World Center" on the east side, while the "breakfast" of her B&B was on the west. How will it be used in the future?

The new owners have partnered with a non-profit called Irrational Labs that "brings behavioral economics to high impact organizations." IL further says that together they will "focus on understanding an improving individual and group experiences at the Red Vic by applying the science of human judgment and decision making ... and studying small group process." It looks like some kind of a coffee house will be included in this.

In the meantime they have scheduled a series of events, the next being a crowd-sourced week-long community festival in the Panhandle from November 16 to Nov. 22 called NOW!SF, which is publicized on the Embassy Network (embassynetwork.com). This will be followed by an exhibition of video and performance art by students of the San Francisco Art Institute on December 4 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Camden Avery of Hoodline.com wrote that he talked to co-founder of Open Door Jessie Kate Schingler about the building and she says she's using Embassy software to help manage guest bookings, but is separately leasing the building from the existing owner, the nonprofit founded by Sunchild.

—Karen Crommie

Two Blows to the City's Left

It was an eerie coincidence that tenant activist Ted Gullicksen should die only hours after the announcement that the San Francisco Bay Guardian had shut its doors. Two powerful mouthpieces for San Francisco's political left were silenced within 24 hours.

The Guardian supported any measure or politician who spent public money on the poor so long as tenants did not have to pay their share, while Gullicksen thought the words greedy and landlord were inextricably linked. The latter wrote more anti-property rights legislation than anyone in the city's history—all happily passed into law by a chorus of supervisors eager to curry favor with the 65 percent of the city's electorate who are renters.

Although the Bay Guardian, under long time owner Bruce Brugemann, took on a brave crusade for publicly-owned power, it was more often lambasting the powerful with little discrimination. After he retired, the free weekly was bought by SF Media Company, owners of the Examiner and SF Weekly. Under its last editor Steve T. Jones, the political analysis became more balanced. Its last endorsement edition was the smartest I've read. Earlier editor Tim Redmond is now making a mighty effort to preserve the Guardian's files by blogging (49hillsonline.org) about the necessity of keeping up its website. I agree that it is valuable. It comprises a history of one of the most progressive periods in the city's history.

—Karen Crommie

Neighbors Rein in Walgreens

The late night/early morning deliveries by Walgreens to their Parnassus Avenue store have been a nightmare for nearby neighbors. "When the back-up alarm makes the delivery, the beeping goes on for five minutes while the driver adjusts the angle of the truck by repeatedly driving forward and reversing. All of this beeping, slamming, and unloading is taking place within feet of residences where many are trying to sleep," wrote Ellen Curry. She didn't take it sitting down but rather made it a point to complain to the manager



Late night deliveries keep neighbors awake.

each time she was awakened. She made seven different complaints in the month of September alone. On

some occasions, she got out of bed and spoke to the truck driver as he was delivering in the predawn hours. He suggested she call Walgreen's dispatch and they promised to pass on her message to the Fleet Manager. She also contacted the Planning Department and filed a formal complaint. The Planning Department told her that Walgreens has a permit to operate between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. Operating outside of those hours is Planning Code violation 710.27.

Last month, additional backup came from District 5 Supervisor London Breed's office. She and legislative aide Vallie Brown were alerted to the problem at the CVIA Board on October 6. As a result, Brown placed a call to Walgreens Manager of Operations, Cindy Ma. She described the problems caused by the untimely deliveries and Ma assured Brown that they would address the issue immediately. Whether this will finally persuade Walgreens to buck the new cost-saving corporate policy of night stocking is to yet be seen. In the meantime we thank the advocacy of Ellen Curry and that of another neighbor, Edward Walls, and, of course, the action of Supervisor Breed's office.

—Karen Crommie

Cole Valley Families Bask in the Fun of Their Fair

It's been described as a "sweet" fair, and as the most "family-friendly" fair in the city, and as an "authentic" neighborhood block party. Whatever, the Cole Valley Fair, for the last two years under the direction of Erica Kajdasz, co-owner of Midline (515 Frederick), continues to be a delightful experience.

Started by Cole Valley merchant Lori Elder in 2003 and taken over by CVIA's Joan Downey in 2007, the fair has garnered a reputation for quality vendors, imaginative food, great entertainment (selected and booked by Chris Hock), a vintage car show



Neighbor Steve Walkup answers questions about his 1949 Jeepster Phaeton, a model originally targeted at returning veterans of World War II.

activities.

This year's fair on September 28 was no exception. Cole Valley families brought their children and dogs to pass a sunny afternoon eating, shopping, listening to music and schmoozing with neighbors. Because some of our Board members were traveling, CVIA members generously volunteered to work at the booth, where our special "Carl and Cole" t-shirts were purchased in considerable numbers.

Thanks to Erica Kajdasz, Mien Luong and Jason Kajdasz, owners of Midline, for agreeing to take the helm from CVIA and doing such a great job in following traditions set by Joan Downey during her six year stint.

(organized by Chuck Cane-pa), an exhibition of historic photographs on different aspects of life in Cole Valley (curated by Jessica Justino), and a range of wildly popular children's



Photo: Vallie Brown

Supervisor London Breed flanked by CVIA Board members David Crommie and Joan Downey. Seen in background is Maryann Hrichak.



Once again, Jessica Justino produced a new wall of historic Cole Valley photos.

Two Neighbors Help the Haight's Homeless Youth

A nonprofit homeless outreach organization called Taking It to the Streets has been established in the Haight over the last nine months, with the goal of "interrupting the cycle" of homelessness and transitioning people back into housing. Founders Christian Calinsky and Carlie Leduc have started with a core group of four young people who, five days a week, clean the Haight's sidewalks and remove fliers from utility polls. In exchange, they receive group housing. The city provides supplies, but no pay.

Ed. note: What follows is a description by Hoodline.com contributor Amy Stephenson (edited for space), who met with co-founders Christian Calinsky and Carlie Leduc.

The organization started in February of this year, they have a small team and no brick-and-mortar space yet. Most of the action takes place in Carlie's living room near Oak and Shrader, and Mom's Body Shop at 1408 Haight. Streets has secured an apartment in Chinatown, providing a home base for the four kids from which to apply for jobs around town. They have a place to shower, cook,



Chris Calinsky supervises the work of two participants in the program.

sleep, and keep their belongings. "They're very excited about doing what they are doing and it is awesome to see how well people do when given a chance," said Calinsky.

Representatives from the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association (HAMA) commented that the streets definitely seem cleaner, with much less dog waste to step around. "Even the bicycle racks have been de-stickered and painted!" they said in an email.

What makes Streets different from other organizations, such as the Haight Youth Alliance, is that they don't really consider themselves a "harm reduction" organization. If a person wants to enroll in classes, or buy an RV, Streets helps them take the next steps and hopefully "rehumanizes" (their word) that person, while engaging with other groups offering harm reduction programs, to keep the person stable enough to accomplish those goals.

For Leduc and Calinsky, the idea is to work with individual people one at a time, not to solve homelessness forever. They do this by walking the streets (and park), handing out lunches, dog food, toiletries, and clean underwear and socks. Once they get to know people individually, they can take on more complicated tasks for them.

Their long-term goal is to set up transitional housing facilities, similar to what Swords to Plowshares is doing for chronically home

less veterans. Swords inhabits a swath of what used to be military housing on Treasure Island. The vets live there, learn job skills, work, save money, stay sober, have access to medical care and food, and have a clear plan to transition back to traditional housing. Streets sees a similar facility in their future.

The sweepers' Chinatown apartment is running them \$1,600 a month, and for the first month, much of the funding came from Calinsky and Leduc. They've only received one major donation so far, and they're out of cash. Calinsky has ambition to expand, enabling them to employ and house more folks, but only if they can raise the dough to support it.

To this end, they're starting a door-to-door donation campaign to visit all the merchants on Haight Street, introduce themselves, and ask for help. Haight Street has a lot of merchants: if each of them donated \$16 per month, it would cover rent for four people while they transition.

"Anything will help us continue to be a prosperous venture for all involved," Calinsky told us. If you're interested, you can donate by going to www.gofundme.com/ata3gw or by writing a check to "To The Streets," and sending it to Taking It to the Streets c/o Mom's Tattoo, 1408 Haight Street, SF, CA 94117. (They're a 501c3, so yes, it's deductible.)

—Amy Stephenson
Hoodline.com

So What Has Carmen Chu Done for You lately?

CVIA received a letter from Carmen Chu's office in late October with some reminders of what our Assessor-Recorder has been doing. (An upcoming election will do that for a bureaucrat.) It has to do with recent online services.

E-Recording - Now title companies, financial institutions, and public entities have the ability to directly record documents from the convenience of their computer instead of physically submitting paper copies to our office;

Online Change of Address Forms - Reporting a change of address is simpler now with the option to complete and submit a change of address form online;

Implementation of third Assessment Appeals Board to more expeditiously process assessment appeals cases;

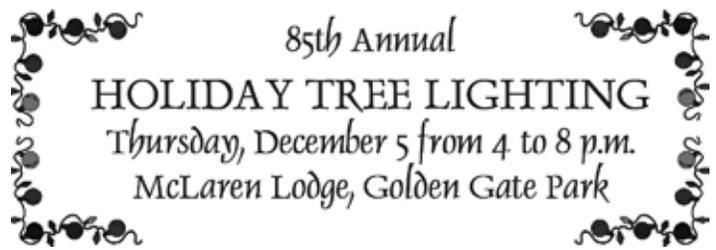
Foreclosure Education through our proactive Notice of Default letters shares crucial information on the resources available for property owners to help avoid foreclosure.

CVIA Officers

President.....	Carole Glosenger
Vice President	Amy Blakeley
Treasurer	Joan Downey
Recording Secretary	Karen Crommie
Membership	Lena Emmery
Community Relations	Amy Blakeley



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.



Holiday Event You Can Walk To

Every holiday season we celebrate the lighting of the massive Monterey Cypress that stands in front of McLaren Lodge. No, it's not your classic cone-shaped fir such as those at commercial sites across the city, nor are its lights placed artfully within the branches, but, hey, it has special significance for us who live close to Golden Gate Park and love its history (see below).

The lighting will take place on December 5, just after dusk (sunset is at 4:29 p.m.). McLaren Lodge is located at 501 Stanyan Street at Fell, just inside the park. Festivities will include a train ride, live entertainment, and a special visit from Santa.

The Backstory:

The towering conifer is lovingly called "Uncle John's Tree" in honor of the park's most influential superintendent, John McLaren, who was an enthusiastic tree planter, responsible for the complete transformation of the landscape of Golden Gate Park from desolate dunes to an urban greenscape.

The Monterey Cypress is native to the California Central Coast and can be seen planted extensively around Golden Gate Park, including another beautiful individual specimen in the S.F. Botanical Garden. This particular tree dates to approximately 1880, during the reign of McLaren's predecessor, William Hammond Hall, who planted some 200,000 trees during his tenure.



Uncle John's tree is 134 years old.

The elegant Romanesque building across the lawn from the tree, now housing Recreation and Park Department offices, was built in 1896 as McLaren's home. His portrait looks over the boardroom, visible through the windows at the north of the building.

In 1929, as part of the Outdoor Christmas Tree Association of California, McLaren had the trees lit for the holidays along Fell St, adjacent to Golden Gate Park's Panhandle and close to McLaren Lodge, as a gift to the city's residents then enduring the Depression.

On his deathbed, McLaren's requested that the tree be lit with Christmas lights. His wish was granted and it is now the official Christmas tree of San Francisco. (atlasobscura.com)

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.

CVIA Board Minutes

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

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

October

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger, October 6, 2014

Note: Board met 30 minutes early to accommodate the attendance of Supervisor London Breed and legislative aide, Vallie Brown.

■ Breed first reported on the process for regulation of short-term rentals, which her office supports. Because legislation will require all home sharers to apply for a permit, she feels it will provide the data needed to determine if the practice is beneficial for the city.

■ Breed is against Prop G (tax on selling buildings in a short time period) as bad city policy.

■ Breed promised to speak to Walgreens regarding their late night (early a.m.) loading hours at its Parnassus store. Vallie will handle it personally, bypassing the local manager and going straight to the corporate office. Joan Downey will provide her with notes of complaints from neighbors,

■ Regarding the homeless-mentally ill, Breed reminded us that Laura's Law has been passed by the BOS. She stressed the importance of having laws in place to facilitate people taking anti-psychotic medicine – tough and frustrating to not have this.

■ Chuck Canepa reported that PG&E contracted workers are breaking home drain covers during recent testing, presumably because they don't know how to remove them properly. He will send photos to Vallie to be forwarded to PG&E.

■ Breed asked that CVIA members donate toys and gift cards (both geared toward older kids/teens) for the holidays.

Regular Meeting:

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$12,095.83 in savings, \$7,121.85 in checking for a total of \$19,215.68, out of which \$6,110.04 is presently held in the Clean Cole Street Fund.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the Kezar track has finally shut down for repair. They are considering placing old seats from Candlestick along the 50 yard line to replace decrepit bleachers.

■ Lena also noted that the SFPD's bike registration program (and "bait bike" strategy) has lowered bike theft by 25 percent.

■ David Crommie reported that many neighbors showed up at the September Park Police meeting to protest the Haight Street Music & Merchants Street Festival, which drew a crowd of 40,000 to Haight Street from Masonic to Stanyan on September 7. Captain Vaswani said he will work to prevent it in the future. Merchants loved it; neighbors hated it.

■ Discussed creating a CVIA Twitter account/handle to tweet about Santa on Cole. Cole Valley Fair producer Erica Kajdasz said her tweets regarding the fair attracted 3,000 followers.

■ Joan Downey reported that the Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit Project, scheduled to begin construction next year, will have a center lane with boarding on both sides.

■ Marianne Hesse reported that Pastor Matthew Pearson has left the Waller Center (former Hamilton Methodist Church) for a new congregation in Sonoma. The person now in charge is Ken Schoon. The Center will continue to be available to teenagers coming to town for church based activities and also for rent to secular groups (including food service). Both in meetings with Marianne and Ted Loewenberg, Schoon seemed unaware of neighborhood's past problems with the social programs of the former church.

■ In a discussion of the 2014 Cole Valley Fair, some felt we could have fostered more memberships/renewals if more board members were present in the CVIA booth. Decided to print more Cole Valley t-shirts in preparation for next year, Carole Glosenger to make arrangements. Chuck Canepa reported that Fair Organizer Erica Kajdasz gave car-themed t-shirts (2013) to all car show participants. Erica indicated that she, and her company Midline, would produce the fair again next year.

■ There was a protracted discussion about the embellishment of the planned "bulb-outs" on Carl Street and different ideas of what would make them more attractive. Decided that CVIA will write a letter of support of these features: trees; sitting planters; some sort of gateway medallion or monument that says Cole Valley (*not* "Carl & Cole" and *not* a standing starburst); maintenance of trees for 3 years. Members must be encouraged to go to the sites and give feedback to MTA – not just the preference of A or B but other ideas.

■ Santa on Cole will be on Dec. 7th. Distribute postcards to stores Nov. 17-19 and weekly follow-up replenishment. Joan to send jpg of front and back to Amy for posting online. Print posters on the first week of November. Board to print and pick up in Joan's absence. Amy add toy donation for Supervisor Breed's office to FB and web.

November

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa – Nov. 5, 2014

■ Treasurer Joan Downey, who was absent, earlier submitted her report. There is \$12,093.83 in savings, \$6,200.12 in checking for a total of \$18,293.95, out of which \$5,199.04 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund.

■ In her review of the Community Police Advisory Board, Lena Emmery reported that the simultaneous occurrence of the Giants Parade and Halloween strained the SFPD staffing.

■ David Crommie reported on the three October 4 nighttime assaults on bike riders in the Panhandle. Also that there is an upswing in mugging and theft of tourists parked at Twin Peaks' Christmas Tree Point.

■ Vice-president and social media maven Amy Blakeley reported that CVIA website designer Mark Ballew returned to generously provide assistance with recent technical problems.

■ Voted to contribute \$200 in gift cards to Supervisor London Breed's Holiday Toy Drive. Lena to contact Breed's office for guidance in selecting vendors and preferred denominations (eight cards of \$25 each was suggested).

■ Because five board members were absent, a discussion of ordering t-shirts for next year's Cole Valley Fair, was postponed to the January meeting, assuming the silk screen can be kept at the studio that long. It was suggested that we also reconsider using American Apparel product again, because of the higher relative cost. Amy Blakeley to make analysis of best selling colors and sizes based on inventory. She will recommend re-order figures at January meeting.

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.

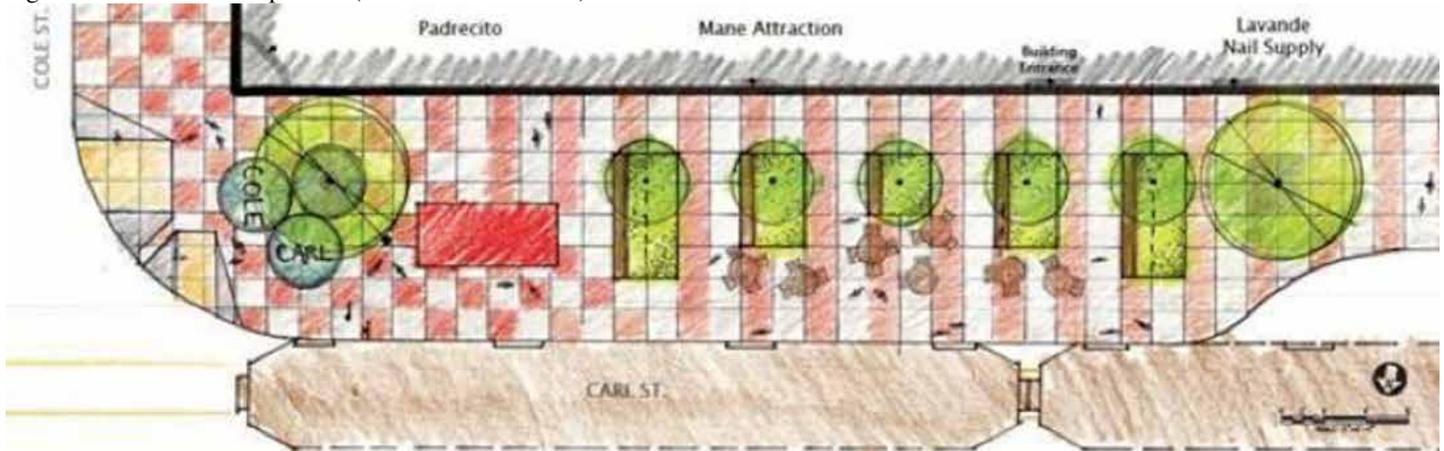
Options Weighed for Carl Streetscape

As we continue to evaluate the survey results and discuss refinements for the proposed plans for the Carl & Cole Muni Forward Streetscape Project, we wanted to send an update summarizing the results and outlining the project schedule moving forward.

Survey Results

Of the 186 responses, 91 percent of neighbors said they live near the project and 58 percent commute on the N-Judah. The most desired general streetscape elements by rank were: (1) Street Trees (2) Sidewalk Planting (3) Benches/Seating (4) Trash Receptacles (5) Neighborhood Identity (banners, signage, artwork, etc.).

The design option for the proposed transit bulbs at Carl & Stanyan (SW corner) and Carl & Cole (SW and NE corners) receiving the highest voter rank was Option A (Checkerboard Bistro).



Most of those polled felt that the planned transit boarding “bulb-outs,” which make it safer to board the N Judah, should be enhanced with checkerboard sidewalks and planters combined with benches.

Many felt that Option A fit better with the neighborhood character and provided a great gathering and social space. Option B (Mid-Century Modern) came in as a very close second because it has more trees.

The most desired elements of the design themes were the following: Greenery – trees (stated in approximately 1/3 of responses) and planters; Seating – benches and bistro seating; A welcome, inviting character creating community and a sense of place; Colorful.

The least desired elements of the design themes were the following: Mid-century overall (dislike modern theme, too trendy, will be dated soon); Concern with seating providing place for transients to sleep; Concern with bulb elements blocking passengers getting on/off transit or blocking storefronts; Concern with crowding.

Of the two gateway feature proposals, 69.1 percent of respondents liked Option A (“Carl” and “Cole” sidewalk medallions). 17 percent of respondents chose “Other,” and most indicated that gateway features are unnecessary.

The top 3 color choices for integral colored concrete (if used at these bulbs) were: Red (18 percent of responses), Green (18 percent of responses), and Blue (18 percent of responses). An additional 18 percent of respondents prefer none (prefer just standard concrete)

Aside from trees, respondents would like to see all options for plant materials almost equally: Succulents (35 percent of respondents), Grasses (34 percent of respondents), and Flowering perennials (31 percent of respondents).

Our team is currently working on refining the design and developing cost estimates based on the selected option. Based on the feedback we’ve received, we would like to hold our next meeting to present the final concepts after the New Year in late January or early February. We still anticipate that the project will be on track for advertising next spring with construction beginning in late summer 2015.

—Mike Rieger RLA,
ASLA DPW Project Manager
Michael.Rieger@sfdpw.org

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



Note that we try to keep the CVIA Calendar of events up-to-date with events that may be of interest to the neighborhood.

If you know of an event that we should post, please send an email to CVIASF@aol.com. Check out the calendar at <http://www.cviasf.org/calendar-of-upcoming-events/>

Politics Took a Rest at CVIA's Summer Social

With the added attraction of a raffle, CVIA's Summer Social on August 23 had a higher turnout than in past years and was even livelier. Cole Valley merchants big-heartedly donated a wide range



Members found their way to the Kezar Bar and Restaurant for the Annual Meeting and Summer Social, held this year on August 23.

of items including gift certificates for food and merchandise, personal training sessions, hair styling, yoga, books and much more. The luckiest winner got a year's supply of coffee from Peet's



CVIA president Carole Glosenger presents a commendation to Carla Crane for her funding of the Kezar Triangle renovation.

CVIA is very, very appreciative of such generosity by all.

Besides plentiful wine and bar food, the main event was a commendation presented to the "angel" of the Kezar Triangle, Carla Crane. The Carla and David Crane Foundation has paid for the redesign and repurposing of this once-neglected 2.8 acre corner of Golden Gate Park on Frederick (between Arguello and 3rd Avenue). Crane and her landscape architect have spent two years working with the community and establishing the Kezar Triangle Arts Coalition.

We were also delighted to discover that the new captain at Park Station, Raj Vaswani, whom we had invited to meet CVIA members, to be so dynamic and outgoing in his comments. He gave a little of

his personal history, his philosophy of law enforcement (community policing), and his hopes and plans for his staff at Park Station. He was candid about the strengths and challenges he faces in a



Captain Raj Vaswani revealed himself to be an entertaining speaker.

jurisdiction comprised of such diverse neighborhoods as Western Addition, Twin Peaks, North of Panhandle and the Castro, as well as our own quirky greater Haight Ashbury.

We thank the contributors to the raffle, Steve Schick at Kezar Bar and Restaurant, and even more important, those of you who purchased tickets and gave up a sunny Sunday afternoon to attend the Social. Remember that, if you have issues on your mind, you can always attend a monthly CVIA board meeting to discuss them and also find a sounding board on every first Tuesday evening at the Park Station community meetings (6:00 p.m.).

—Karen Crommie

UCSF Finally Releases Long Range Plans

After over five years of planning and numerous community meetings, UCSF published the "Regents' Final" Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) on November 7. This document will be considered for approval by



the Board of Regents of the University of California at their November meeting (Nov. 19-20) along with the Final LRDP Environmental Report (EIR). To view a copy of the Regents' Final LRDP

and the Final LRDP EIR, go to www.ucsf.edu/lrdp

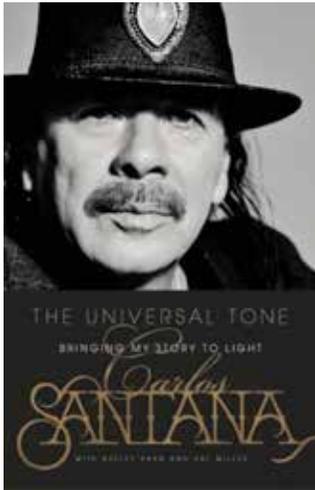
Once the Board of Regents considers and certifies the LRDP EIR and approves the LRDP, the 2014 version will replace that of 1996 and will guide the university's growth and physical changes for the next 20 years.

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

Booksmith Presents Carlos Santana Reminiscing with Ben Fong Torres at Castro

Carlos Santana is one of the most influential and celebrated artists of all time. For forty years and as many albums later, Santana has sold more than 100 million records and reached more than 100 million fans at concerts worldwide. A 10-time Grammy winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, in the realm of guitar legends, Santana stands alone. This evening, he tells his story, in conversation with Ben Fong-Torres.

The Universal Tone is not just the history of a rock band that sold millions of albums. It is the story of an individual who is ceaselessly creative, spiritually focused and yet fearlessly part of a world that brought him fame and adulation and challenged his dedication to his music and to doing good. Santana's memoir is filled with



well-remembered historic details and visceral storytelling, beginning with his humble childhood in Mexico, one can smell the food of his early youth in Autlán, growing up the son of a violin player and the scents of playing at the local El Convoy bar in Tijuana when he was just a teenager. He also shares recollections of his emergence in the 1960s rock underground scene as a young adult after he moved to San Francisco and goes on to tell of his explosive later career success and reaching a new generation with the epic album *Supernatural*.

Deeply honest and frank and richly detailed with his vivid memories, Santana's authentic voice shines through on every page. From imagining the wisps of smoke from a long gone Miles Davis before a Santana show to his hazy experience at Woodstock and first world tour, to his influences from Latin, jazz, rock and blues musicians, and his ongoing spiritual evolution, Santana describes the depths of his connection to sound and his belief in the "universal tone" how music and soul are interconnected.

The arc of Santana's performing and recording career is complemented by a lifelong devotion to social activism and humanitarian causes. The Milagro Foundation, originally established by Carlos Santana and his family in 1998, has granted more than five million dollars to non-profit programs supporting underserved children and youth in the areas of arts, education and health. Milagro means "miracle," and the image of children as divine miracles of light and hopegifts to our lives is the inspiration behind its name.

Ben Fong-Torres joined Rolling Stone in 1969, and since then has written for dozens of notable magazines including Esquire, GQ, Playboy, Mother Jones, and The New York Times. He is also known for his work as a broadcaster, a journalist with the San Francisco Chronicle, and as the author of nine books. In 2000, he was portrayed as a real-life character in the Cameron Crowe film, *Almost Famous*.

Presented by The Booksmith
7:30 PM at the Castro Theater (429 Castro Street, San Francisco)

Tickets, \$35 - \$45, available online at brownpapertickets.com or by phone at 800-838-3006

PLEASE NOTE: This is not a concert!

Help

- Emergency911
- Disturbance553-0123
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks ...553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles781-5865
- Health Department255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.)311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal311
- NextBus311
- Street Lighting.....554-0730

Mayor Edwin M. Lee554-6141
City Hall - Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
S.F., CA 94102

Chief of Police Greg Suhr553-1551
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F., CA 94103

District Attorney George Gascón553-1741
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F., CA 94103

Captain Raj Vaswani242-3000
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117
Raj.Vaswani@sfgov.org

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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

Telephone: 554-5184 FAX: 554-5163

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

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$_____ Do NOT acknowledge my contribution in the newsletter

Dues paid to CVIA are not deductible as charitable contributions, however, contributions to Clean Cole Street 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**