

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXVIII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

FALL 2015

Summer Social August 15 With Guest C.W. Nevius



It will be the usual relaxed afternoon of schmoozing, snacking, sipping, meeting new neighbors, presentations, commendations and the election of officers and speaker C. W. (Chuck) Nevius.

Nevius has been a columnist at the San Francisco Chronicle for more than 20 years, most notably taking on local issues like the former Recycling Center in Golden Gate Park. In his long career, he has covered sports, reviewed movies and

spotted trends. His metro column appears on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

As a sports columnist, he climbed the ski jump at the Norway Olympics, ate bee larvae in Japan and skied in the French Alps. He also wrote about riding the "Straight Talk Express" with John McCain during his first presidential bid, parachuting out of an airplane and running the Boston Marathon. His latest book is "Crouching Father, Hidden Toddler: A Zen Guide for New Dads."



Columnist C.W. Nevius

Please join us at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 15 at the Kezar Bar & Restaurant on the corner of Cole and Carl Streets. Let us know if you plan to attend so that owner Steve Schick, can be sure to prepare enough of his delicious appetizers. Write cviasf@aol.com or leave a message at (415) 431-1414. Beer, wine and food are included in your \$10 entry fee. Your guests are welcome.

Raffle Again This Year, But With a Change

Yes, it's another list of generous premiums donated by district merchants. Tickets will be for sale at the Summer Social but, in order to extend the opportunities for participation, we will not hold the drawing until 4:00 p.m. at the Cole Valley Fair on September 27.* Because you put your name and contact number on every ticket you buy, you won't have to be there to win. Tickets are \$5 each, five for \$20. All proceeds go to paying for the daily sidewalk cleaning of the Cole Valley commercial corridor.

Raffle Prizes

- ★ Cole Valley Antiques, assorted antique items, \$300
- ★ Peets Coffee, 1 lb. of your choice per month for 1 year, \$250
- ★ Midline, two personal \$100 training sessions w/Jason Kajdasz

—Continued on Page 2

La Boulange to Close

When Starbucks in 2013 bought the La Boulange chain of French cafes owned and operated by Pascal Rigo, everyone knew there would be changes. And there were. But never did I suspect they planned to shut down all 23 venues, especially when business was bustling.

Starbucks bean counters had noted that they lagged in food sales. Their purchase of La Boulange and access to its French-style bakery products, boosted sales in that category by 16% the first year. Even though La Boulange regulars recognized the diminution in quality, and even though the products were marketed in pink stripes suggestive of an mid-west candy store, for Starbucks it was Mission Accomplished.

Rigo told Chronicle reporter Paolo Lucchesi, "When you (Starbucks) have 12,000 stores and La Boulange (product) is doing so well



Although former owner Pascal Rigo is not objecting to the closure of his cafe chain, Cole Valley residents are complaining loudly.

inside the stores, why do you want to have 20 stores in San Francisco where you don't want to spend the time or the money?" Considering the city's antipathy to national chain stores "formula retail" anywhere other than downtown, this is not hard to understand.

But there's speculation that Rigo might buy back one or two stores and, hey, wouldn't his first choice naturally be Cole Valley? This hope was conceived when reporter Lucchesi asked him about the fate of the soon-to-be empty storefronts. "They (Starbucks) have a plan for most of them, but I have a plan for some of them, too," he replied.

—Karen Crommie

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- ★ Tantrum, “curated whimsy,” San Francisco-themed gift bag, \$156
- ★ Urban Mercantile, modern home essentials, plush blanket, \$150
- ★ Finnegan’s Wake, case of Joel Gott Sauvignon Blanc, \$144
- ★ Mane Attraction, two hair styling gift cards (\$55 & \$65),
- ★ The Booksmith, bag of books on variety of subjects, \$100
- ★ Haight Street Market (Gus’s) 2 gift cards at \$50 each
- ★ Whole Foods Market gift card, valid at all of their locations, \$100
- ★ Circus Center offers training in acrobatics, 2 trapeze classes, \$98
- ★ Midline, month of Pilates mat classes with Mien Luong, \$90
- ★ Magnolia Brew Pub, gift card is valid at both locations, \$75
- ★ Ice Cream Bar, food or fountain items, three gift cards at \$20 each
- ★ Ineke, Scent Library & Sample Selection, \$25 each
- ★ Ino Vino is an Italian wine bar with small plates, gift card, \$50
- ★ Padrecito Mexican has seasonal food with full bar, gift card, \$50
- ★ Reverie offers breakfast and brunch specialties, gift card, \$50
- ★ Say Cheese offers products from here and abroad, gift card, \$50
- ★ Zazie serves simple and hearty French fare, gift card, \$50
- ★ AcroSports, is a center for gymnastics and circus arts, coupon, \$25
- ★ Cole Hardware has a wide variety of merchandise, gift card, \$25
- ★ Kezar Pizzetta features single serve pizzas to order, gift card, \$25
- ★ Amoeba Music is the world’s largest vinyl /CD store, gift card, \$20

*If you can’t attend the Social, but would like to buy raffle tickets to support the Clean Cole Street project, send a check to CVIA, Box 170611, SF, 94117 and we’ll write your name on the tickets you buy and contact you if you win. Also check the News on our website (cviasf.org/news) for information on where we might be selling the tickets around the neighborhood.

As 209 Grattan Approaches Completion, it Grows Upward

It was 18 months ago that the Planning Commission gave a green light to the residential building proposed for 209 Grattan. Neighbors waged a campaign to shrink the size of the project, which needed several variances for approval. Still, on their part, the lot owners had a compelling case. They had lived across the street for several years and needed to move their family to a larger space. When the derelict little cottage went up for sale they saw their



Grattan neighbors weren’t exaggerating about the dominance of the 2,800 sq. ft., four story building that replaced a 600 sq. ft. cottage.

chance. The drawings presented by the architect were alarming: every inch of lot space seemed to be utilized and it went up four stories. The height, however, was within code standards for the block, if not the homes immediately adjacent.

The neighbors, who had engaged an attorney, finally got one small concession from the commission—that the size of the fourth floor be slightly reduced to limit the sense of bulk in the rear of the building.

The Battle to Improve Lighting on Haight Street

The Haight merchants have made an all-out effort to have pedestrian-level lighting included in the improvements now scheduled by the city as part of the Haight Ashbury Public Realm Plan.

Christin Evans, indefatigable co-owner of Booksmith, pursued the inclusion of this amenity long after it was dismissed as “too expensive” by the SFMTA, who has jurisdiction over the decision.

Looking for some more meaningful improvements than the bulb-outs and “streetscaping,” the merchant’s association (HAMA) focused on the “lighting” part of the original plan. It was something that was truly needed. But the plan did not, as they found out, intend to install the type of pedestrian-level illumination that is badly needed.

Christin Evans wrote on July 30, “After the budget was signed this week, I inquired as to whether or not the pedestrian-scale lighting portion of the Public Realm Plan had been funded. According to Vallie Brown in Supervisor Breed’s office, the Mayor put in \$300k and Supervisor Breed had a \$75k ‘add back’ for a total of \$375k.

“However, the project requires \$2.1 million for a complete installation and at least \$500k just for the wiring that is required before poles can be installed later.

“The reason, Vallie explained, that they put \$375k in the budget is that DPW needed matching funds for an application they’ve made for a Caltrans grant. We may not know for another several months if the city will be awarded that grant so we are still waiting to hear if the pedestrian lights will be included in the Public Realm project work scheduled for early next year.”

CVIA has written and also testified at the Mayor’s budget hearing in support of HAMA in this effort and is grateful to Christin Evans for working tirelessly to keep it on the front burner at City Hall.

Volunteering at Grattan School

Grattan Elementary School is now one of the most sought after public schools in the city. Much of this is due to its principal Matthew Reedy, an outstanding faculty and the Grattan PTA. Because of the work of the PTA, there is a one-of-a-kind computer lab,



Grattan Elementary School has approximately 450 students enrolled in Pre-K through fifth grade.

vocal instruction, a unique gardening program, teacher stipends, field trips and more.

As classes commence on August 17, there will be many opportunities to support the school such as becoming a lunch and recess helper, grant-writing, literacy enrichment, gathering supplies and donations for specific events or contributing to bake sales. Google “Grattan Elementary School” and check out the Volunteer Page to learn more.



A CLEAN COLE STREET

Our Neighborhood Heroes 2015 Merchant Participants

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Alpha Market | Bambinos |
| BurgerMeister | Cole Cleaners |
| Cole Valley Antiques | Crêpes on Cole |
| Cole Hardware | Lavande |
| 930 Cole St. Associates | Padrecito |
| Mane Attraction | Postal Chase |
| | Tantrum |

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain John Sanford holds community meetings on the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:00 p.m. He reviews neighborhood criminal activity, gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, 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).



**August 11, September 8, October 13,
Mark Your Calendars**

CVIA Officers

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

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.



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only thirteen 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 discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the "Santa on Cole" photo shoot and the raffle. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period July 30, 2014 to August 1, 2015. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500): *Loic Nicolas, Abby & David Rumsey*

Donors (\$100 - \$249): *Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, Sheila & P.J. Brooker, Karen & David Crommie, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Diane & Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Joan Downey & Ilie Gaceu, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Marianne Hesse, Virginia Joosen, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Bahereh & John Manning, Janan New, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Jill Wolcott & Mitchell J. Olejko, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Juliet Pries, Rosemary Southwood*

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): *Byron G. Bray, Jr., Gina Centoni, Linda Erkelens & Ronald Dion, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Rita & Richard Felciano, Ryan, Emily & Penelope Floyd, Deb & Todd Frederick, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Kate Ditzler & Stuart Gasner, Carole Glosenger, Shannon & Chris Hock, Mary & John Hooper, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Tracy & Patrick Jennings, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Kerith & Tony Pucci, Michael Rafferty, Kendra & William Robins, Elaine Robinson, Susan & Steven Rosen, Eileen & Kevin Thau, Suene & Eric Waldman, Mary Ann Wolcott*

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): *Robert Anooshian, Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Judith Bishop, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Joan K. Boyd, Chris Broderick, Sarah & Alexander Crockett, Karin de Brer, Jean Hayward, Bryn Jedlic, Gerardo Joffe, Lynn Kormondy, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Dennis Martino, Olympia & Douglas Montgomery, Barbara Mow, Tom Nicoll, Robert Page, Helen & Allan Ridley, Brenda Stone, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Deborah Van Atta, William Villaroel, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vognsen, Isabel Wade, Edward C. Walls, Victoria Zaroff*

Boosters (\$24 and below): *Sharon Birenbaum, Ellen Curry, Mary Ann de Sousa, Beverley Epstein, Melissa & Glen Gee, Elizabeth Lee Giles, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Maryann Hrichak, David Keller, Kathleen Miller, Ellen & Richard Price, Diane & Bob Silver, Linda Taylor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell*

Park Library is Open Every Day

(1833 Page Street)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1-5	12-6	10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6

What's Happened to the Promised Masonic Avenue Upgrade?

Background:

The Masonic Avenue Streetscape Improvements Project, between Geary Boulevard to the north and Fell Street to the south, is designed to provide improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders. The proposed improvements are the result of a planning process among three city agencies: Public Works, the Planning Department, SFMTA. The project features a new landscaped median, new cycle tracks, widened sidewalks, repaving, new street trees and sidewalk planters, new lighting in the median and pedestrian-scale lighting on sidewalks.

Backlash:

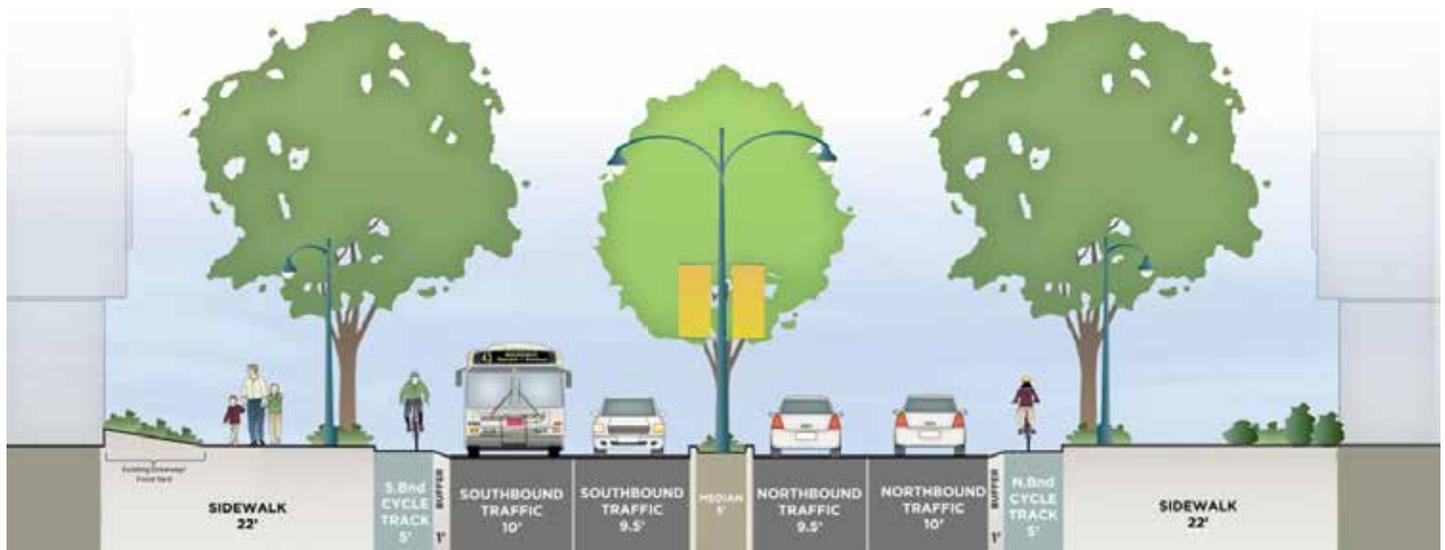
An organization calling itself "Save Masonic" has been highly critical of the project primarily because of inaccuracies in the environmental impact report (EIR). Things not considered in the report are 1) a loss of two lanes of traffic during rush hour 2) the claim that the bulbouts will not affect the alignment or number of through-traffic lanes when busses will, in fact be stopping in a traffic lane increasing congestion 3) minimizing the number of actual lost parking spaces, which they estimate at 167 and 4) no mention of the impairment of emergency response due to the raised concrete median, nor 5) effects on drainage should the rain ever return. Most

of all, this group of Masonic residents resents the statement by MTA that no public controversy would be generated. After nearly 1,200 people signed an online petition, another 150 signatures were gathered on a hard copy petition and hundreds of people wrote and called the department with complaints, we have to assume they have changed this view.

Where We Are Now:

The wheels of the city move slowly, and none slower than those beneath this controversial project, which attempts to slow traffic and enhance bike travel at the cost of losing 167 parking places. While neighbors had been complaining about the speed of cars and the need for resurfacing, they didn't expect a brave-new-world transformation. By now the "design and bid" phase should be over and construction should be starting. A call to DPW's project manager John Dennis revealed that "the project is moving forward and we are about to advertise it in August. That means we will probably break ground in January of next year. At about that time we are planning to have another 'Town Hall' meeting to answer questions that people have about the project." Dennis also said he would be happy to answer any questions over the phone by calling him at 415-558-4495.

—Karen Crommie



Nominees for New Officers

The following CVIA board members have been nominated to hold offices in 2015-16. Voting will be held on August 15 during the annual meeting at Kezar Bar and Restaurant (900 Cole St.). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

- PresidentChuck Canepa
- Vice PresidentAmy Blakeley
- TreasurerJoan Downey
- SecretaryKaren 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.

Another Mini Free Library

We reported on Jay Street's library shelves in front of his Carl Street home in a past issue but now another resident has generously contributed to neighborhood literacy, this time at 836 Clayton Street. Longtime resident Sandy Lane built a tiny version of her own



home and mounted it on a wall at street level. The miniature facsimile of her two-story house opens to reveal two shelves, on which she hopes books will be exchanged among neighbors. Thank you, Sandy.

CVIA's Segway Resolution Passes at CSFN

Introduced to the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods assembly by CVIA on June 16, 2015

Whereas, the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has a five-year contract with the San Francisco Electric Tour Company (SFETC) granting them permission to operate Segway tours within Golden Gate Park,

Whereas, the current contract between Recreation and Parks and SFETC expires on January 31, 2016 and will probably be renewed,

Whereas, Segways are large motorized scooters with platforms on which riders stand while gripping handlebars,

Whereas, with a driver aboard, the height is approximately seven feet, the weight 260 pounds with capability of a speed of 12 miles per hour,

Whereas, motorized vehicles are by law prohibited from running on sidewalks and paths and are confined to the street, the present contract permits the Segway convoys to travel throughout Golden Gate Park using its pedestrian walkways—even where bicycles are prohibited,

Whereas, many drivers of Segways are doing so for the first time and take only brief instruction on the operation of the heavy motorized vehicle, they can easily knock over a pedestrian, especially a child, standing in their way,

Whereas, although we understand that Rec and Park receives high compensation for granting this privilege to SFETC, we believe that, for slightly less money, a new contract could be amended to exclude the use of pedestrian paths,

Therefore, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods urges the Recreation and Parks Department in negotiations to renew SFETC's contract, to prohibit the company from using pedestrian walkways for their Segway tours and limit them to the streets.

*Introduced by Joan Downey
Acting Delegate, Cole Valley Improvement Association*

Add your voice to that of CVIA asking RPD to deny permission to operate Segways on sidewalks and dirt paths in Golden Gate Park.

Write, email or call:
Recreation and Parks Commission
McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
rpdinfo@sfgov.org
(415) 831-2700



Ice Cream Bar to Open Second Store in Castro

Owner Juliet Pries is still mum on the name for the second version of The Ice Cream Bar scheduled to open this fall in the Castro. But with almost two years of regulatory red tape she confronted before opening on Cole Street in 2013, I wouldn't hold my breath. The city has stringent requirements for safety related to the handling of dairy products: easy-to-clean walls, special refrigeration, drainage, generators, venting...the list goes on.



Photo: Allen Clapp, SF Gate

Ice Cream Bar's "soda jerks" wear vintage garb.

What we do know is that it will take the place of L'Occitane en Provence (554 Castro at 18th) and that the pastry chef Lori Rich will provide baked goods for both venues. With all the publicity (both national and international) The Ice Cream Bar has

garnered over the years, we assume it will bear the same name in order to cash in on its well-deserved reputation, but maybe not. Juliet is being a bit cagy about this.

What's raising the most curiosity however is the décor. The Cole Valley store has a carefully restored 1930s blonde wood bar trimmed with shiny steel and the unique Stanley Knight soda fountain with its original soda and syrup dispensers—the only one still operating in San Francisco. If Juliet is planning to match these design standards, there's a lot of work ahead.

CVIA is delighted with her success and wishes her many years of good fortune in this new venture. She has been an outstanding member of the Cole Valley community and we are grateful that, five years ago, she chose Cole Street for what will soon be considered her "flagship" store.

—Karen Crommie

McDonald's Getting Better?

We see that McDonald's has finally hired a security guard. Good luck to him. It's hard to keep the restaurant appealing when it provides a desperately needed respite for those who live in the park: cheap food, shelter, a bathroom—and in it, privacy for washing hair as well as injecting drugs. Although the City Attorney's lawsuit against owner C.C. Yin (who also owns an equally problematic store on Fillmore and Golden Gate) is still in discussion, spokesman Matt Dorsey says there has been improvement. In McDonald's defense, it is difficult for security to weed out the down and outers from the addicts and criminals.



Update on the Cole & Carl “Enhancements”

If you don't remember this project, it's understandable. It was back in 2007 when the Department of Public Works, along with the MTA decided to add transit bulbs to increase safety in boarding the N Judah. The bulbs were installed in 2012. It was part of the city-wide Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) that sponsored workshops soliciting public opinion on a wide range of solutions to known Muni transit problems.

Since they would not grant CVIA's earlier suggestion for brick or stone inserts in the concrete surface of the bulb-outs in order to add texture and visual interest, as in some other neighborhoods



Installation of a bulb-out left a wide expanse of concrete badly in need of “streetscaping.”

(they said those had not proven practical), we asked for some kind of greenery (raised planters, trees) and seating to be added to the wide expanses of bare concrete. But remembering our earlier request for variation in the sidewalk surface, they also suggested a colored checkerboard “paving pattern” on the sidewalk defining the boarding areas.

A call to DPW this week revealed that, oh, yes, “streetscape concepts” for Cole and Carl are still being developed and that these “amenities” are in their final stage of planning. What are they? Well, we aren't sure at this point. Project coordinator Michael Rieger told us that they are reviewing the initial suggestions for their ability to hold up under the heavy wear anticipated at one of the busiest stops in the Muni system. “The design team is finalizing conceptual plans,” said Mike. One guesses they might have gotten lost in the filing cabinets stuffed with DPW work orders. Nevertheless, he promises to set up a meeting with the CVIA Board within two weeks. We will focus a gimlet eye to that checkerboard idea.

—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.

The BIG SHIFT on Oak Street

This building has been on the site of 1637 Oak Street since horse and buggies paraded up and down the Panhandle. The two-story Edwardian, now in its dotage, got a big shock on Monday, July 20 when its foundation, replaced by a temporary steel framework, was



Once mounted on rails, building was moved 25 feet east leaving an empty lot for Urban School construction.

very slowly moved to the adjoining lot so that the expansion plans of Urban High School can be implemented.

A bevy of dignitaries, including some students and Head of School Mark Salkind watched through cyclone fencing as the house, which had been lifted by hydraulic jacks on to rails creating a temporary steel framework, now mounted on a lateral elevator



Final resting place—after 100 years, cheek by jowl with its old neighbor.

was carefully ratcheted across the empty space by one man turning the huge drive handle. The movement was hardly perceptible but was completed in a single day.

The operation makes way for a 64,000 square foot structure housing classrooms, administration offices and gymnasium. Beneath, there will be a garage with forty parking spaces (replacing the 57 spaces accommodated by the old surface lot serving St. Agnes church). Construction is expected to be completed in 2016. The school's expansion plans were approved by the Planning Department last February and included permission to increase student enrollment from 380 to a maximum of 420. Urban's excellent reputation comes at a steep cost. Tuition and fees for the 2015-16 school year come to \$40,670 per pupil.

An interesting sidelight of the expansion project is that there is a “constructioncam” in constant operation so that you can watch the workers in real time as the new building goes up. Go to urbanschool.org and scroll to the second page.

Renegade Cyclists: Captain Sanford Kicks the Homet's Nest

When new Park Station Captain John Sanford let loose on scofflaw bike riders at the recent Police Community Meeting, fearless Examiner reporter Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez had his pen handy and an article soon appeared quoting the Captain as referring to them as "red-light runners, stop sign slippers, and roll-and-go rapscallions."

Sanford said further that he would make it an enforcement priority to rein them in. Members of the SF Bicycle Coalition, instead of agreeing with the problem, which would have been the smart move, defended fellow cyclists with their usual vehement overkill. In fact,



Photo: NYTimes

Can the SFPD rein in scofflaw cyclists, the way New York has done? it was the kind of overblown rebuttal that has given them political power far beyond the numbers of their constituency.

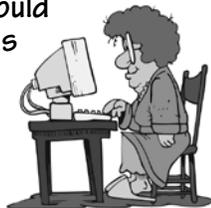
In a statement on their website, they said, "The SF Bicycle Coalition is shocked [shocked!] to see SFPD shifting resources away from enforcing against the deadliest traffic behaviors, etc." And that was a clarion call to the troops. Letters poured into the Examiner as well as to Park Station decrying Sanford as being soft on real crime. Then there was a demonstration and a "slow-down" by bike commuters. When he returned from a training that had taken him out of town, Captain Sanford tried to quell the backlash, but basically stuck to his guns.

Now a constituency has developed (legislation no doubt soon to follow) to legalize the so-called Idaho Stop Law here in San Francisco. This would permit cyclists to treat stop signs as if they were yield signs and proceed if no cars are approaching—including red lights. Proponents say it has worked for three decades in Idaho, is actually safer, and gets bikes out of the way of cars.

—Karen Crommie

Call for News

You may have noticed that your faithful editor has had to write most of the articles in this issue. That's not how it should be. Please contribute news items for our next edition. File date is October 20. We accept material in any form. Send to cviase@aol.com or CVIA, P.O. Box 170611, San Francisco, CA 94117.



Cole Valley Fair Returns

MIDLINE is pleased to announce that the Cole Valley Fair will be back again for its thirteenth year on Sunday, September 27. The Fair, under the direction of Erica Kajdasz, continues to be a charming and well-attended event sponsored by local merchants



Agreed: The Cole Valley Fair is the most family-friendly in the city.

and organizations with an outstanding record of community support. The fair features local art, jewelry and handmade crafts, great food, live music produced by Chris Hock, a full block of vintage automobiles organized by Chuck Canepa, events for children including face painting, a jumpy house, balloon animals, obstacle course, and more.

It's important to remember that there will be no street parking allowed on Cole Street from Grattan to Carl, nor on Parnassus from Belvedere to Shradler. Parking control officers will begin towing at 6 a.m. on Fair day.



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

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), the UCSF Community Advisory Group (CAG) and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

June

Home of Karen and David Crommie – June 1, 2015,

Meeting was presided over by vice-president Amy Blakeley, in the absence of president Carole Glosenger.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey made a lengthy budget report on the Clean Cole Street project over its seven-year existence, saying that although, currently projecting a small deficit at the end of the year, she was confident that it will be covered by future member contributions. The daily cleaning of Cole Street, performed by CleanScapes, costs CVIA \$936 per month.

■ Joan requested that Lena Emmery, chair of the Kezar Advisory Committee, reach out to Captain John Sanford regarding skateboarders misusing the entry steps to Kezar Stadium.

■ Lena reported that the Captain's Monday noon meetings with Cole Valley merchants have not been well attended. "Mondays with Merchants" is designed as an opportunity for the business community to keep Park Station up to date with merchant security problems.

■ David Crommie reported on the law suit filed by the City Attorney against the owner of McDonalds (Stanyan and Haight) for not mitigating the drug dealing in front and back of the restaurant.

■ Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa, who attended the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods May meeting in the absence of delegate Karen Crommie, reported on a contentious election of officers, which resulted in longtime president Judy Berkowitz being replaced by Midtown Terrace delegate George Wooding.

■ Vice president and webmaster Amy Blakeley reported completion of the on-line renewal and Clean Cole Street contribution function at the CVIA website.

■ Joan Downey announced that she has stepped down from her post as chair of the Operations and Customer Service Committee, part of the SFMTA citizens advisory council.

■ Marianne Hesse said that the CVIA member tour of the Waller Street Center will be scheduled in Fall, after the current summer program of school groups is over. Director Ken Schoon has rescheduled the cleanup event to June 21.

■ In discussing this year's raffle to raise funds for Clean Cole Street, Board agreed that solicitation letters to merchants for prizes should extend to Haight Street business owners. Joan Downey will have 250 tickets printed prior to August 1 with full information re prizes, beneficiary, contributing merchants (for largest prizes), etc. Tickets will remain \$5 each (five for \$20) and will be sold at the Summer Social (8/15/15), while raffle drawing will be held at the Cole Valley Fair (9/27/15) at 4:00 p.m. in the CVIA booth. Ticket buyers will not need to be present as their names and phone numbers will appear on the sellers' side of each ticket. Booth should show logos of participating merchants and large sign "Clean Cole Street Raffle Drawing at 4:00 p.m.," or something similar.

■ Summer Social will be again at the Kezar Bar and Restaurant 1 to 4 p.m., David Crommie will provide a sound system.

■ Marianne said that concerned neighbors are trying to find someone to claim the mosaic design now fronting the former Boy's and Girl's Club on Page Street. Susan Strolis is contact person.

■ Decided not to take a side in the proposed ballot measure mitigating the earlier Chiu legislation attempting to regulate short-term rentals and home-sharing. The measure is still unenforceable and adds a whole new layer of bureaucracy within the Planning Dept.

■ Decided to invest \$2,000 in a reorder of "Cole and Carl" T-shirts to be sold at Postal Chase. Joan to consult with Adam (City Screen & Graphics) on brand of shirt, color, shrinkage, distribution of sizes, models, and prices. Slate or Black color to be decided. CVIA supplies the shirts, Maryo sells them for whatever we determine and we split the profits. There would be a quarterly inventory and payment. He would charge sales tax and pay it to the State. (So if the cost to produce the T-shirt is \$10 and it sells for \$22 + tax, we'd get \$16 for each shirt.) He'd bag the shirts individually and would determine how many were sold by quarterly inventory. We could audit the inventory periodically. He would have no problem with us selling them at the fair. Maryo is currently selling neighborhood-themed T-shirts at his West Portal shop and is on his second order.

July

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger— July 6, 2015.

In the absence of Joan Downey, no treasurer's report was given.

■ Board welcomed Theron Bullman, controller of Pacific American Group, a property management and development corporation owned by Linda Hothem. PAG is the new owner of 930 Cole Street (former Cole Garage), the 10,000 square foot retail space, which is now for lease. Bullman said that since last November, PAG had made basic infrastructure repairs including bringing gas lines and sprinklers up to code and is now actively seeking a tenant. (Recent negotiations with AltSchool were terminated by mutual consent.) The CVIA Board expressed the desire that any prospective lessee 1) be neighborhood-serving, 2) not adversely impact traffic on Cole Street, 3) not compete with established Cole Valley businesses, 4) incorporate the arched façade into any further development of the site.

■ Agreed that an email blast be sent out to all CVIA members on July 25 reminding them of the Summer Social on August 15 with guest speaker, C.W. Nevius.

■ Agreed on need to obtain commitments for raffle prize contributions from merchants so that it can be included in advertising and printed on raffle tickets. Tickets to be sold at Summer Social, drawing is to be at Fair on September 27. So far, Mane Attraction, Ice Cream Bar, Booksmith, Cole Hardware and Peet's have pledged prizes.

■ Discussed order of "Cole and Carl" T-shirts to be for sale at Postal Chase. Decided on a single color: Charcoal, short sleeves only, one style, men's and women's sizes only (no children's), eliminated stipulation from draft contract with PC that each be stored in plastic bag, Lena to circulate revised contract to board members.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the last Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) meeting focused on plans for the National Night Out (August 4), to be held at the Waller Center. She encouraged all board members to support the officers of Park Station by attending.

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.

Robert "Bob" Smith

November 22, 1927 - July 4, 2015

A native San Franciscan, Bob will be fondly remembered for his years managing Robert's Hardware on Haight Street. He was a graduate of Lowell High School and UC Berkeley. After service in the US Army Counterintelligence Corps, he took over his family's business in 1960 and worked there until his retirement in 1993. As Haight residents relied on Bob for advice on a myriad of household problems, they now look to his sons Steve and Bruce, who ably carry on the family tradition of friendly, knowledgeable and ethical service.

Haight Street: Boulevard of Broken Dreams

Gone is the day when Haight Street businesses hung on year in and year out. Those shops held the *old* leases. Any space rented in the last few years is looking at a monthly nut of \$5,000 – \$15,000. This summer four relatively new stores on Haight Street are closing (or have closed) their doors. Hoodline's Camden Avery tells us to say goodbye to the San Jose-based skateboard/hip-hop store Cukui, the falafel shop Sunrise Deli, the stylish but low-priced women's store Spunk-funk (Spain) and the Pinklily women's boutique. Even though the latter space recently lowered its rental price from \$6,500 to \$5,000. That's still a lot of merchandise to sell before you see a profit.



Pink Lily came and went within a year.

On the bright side, we're finally getting a shop in the long-vacant space left by All You Knead restaurant where indigents were beginning to homestead the sidewalk in front. The Singapore-based fast food chain (on-line ordering) VeganBurg plans to open its first US restaurant there (1466 Haight) and is working on extensive remodeling of the site. As we reported in the last issue, Ritual Coffee Roasters is still planning on taking over the old cleaners at Haight and Central.

**SEE YOU AT THE
CVIA SUMMER SOCIAL
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
(See Article on Page 1)**

Volunteer at Alvord Lake

The fourth Saturday of the month falls on August 22, which means an opportunity to volunteer to help improve the Alvord Lake area of Golden Gate Park by gardening from 9 a.m. to noon. Look for the Rec and Park vehicle to determine our location.

Dress in layers, and if you have work gloves or kneeling pads, please bring them. Many thanks to McDonald's for supplying refreshments during the break. Call Susan Strolis (415) 861-3195.

Shrader Horticultural "Awards"

Where can one find such points of interest only a few feet apart? We decided to grant two awards (figuratively) for unrecognized excellence at the top of Shrader Street.

Most Aspirational Bloom



Looming some 30 feet into the air, this wide bladed cactus plant was completely unnoticeable until it launched itself into prominence. It speaks to all from humble roots who yearn for fame and recognition.

Most Successful Espaliered Tree



It's been there for years, always trimmed and neat, somebody's beloved project. The Asian Pear tree covers the otherwise blank wall with a compelling example of 17th century French arboriculture.

Cole Valley Generosity Speeds Repair of Tank Hill Steps

The steps leading from Tank Hill to Belgrave, currently a steep suicide path of slipping rocks and eroding wood braces, has finally gotten the go-ahead for repair. Cole Valley resident



Ilya Kaltman, who has taken a stunning leadership role in this effort, has succeeded in extracting a number of pledges from neighbors to contribute to its funding. So much so that Rec and Park could no longer ignore the request of people willing to put their money where their mouth is—to rebuild the downhill steps.

For those descending, falls are common.

Since the last report, the project had to go through a few more hurdles before going out to bid. The first was an environmental review exemption which was granted. The next will be a final presentation before the Rec and Park Capitol Committee. This will occur on August 5. It is expected to be approved. It's not too late to make a contribution, contact her at ilyakaltman@gmail.com.

—Karen Crommie

Swap Event at Booksmith

One of the many innovative events at Booksmith is their periodic book swap, which takes on a slightly different form on August 28, featuring hot young writer Ottessa Moshfegh, author of "Eileen."

She was awarded the Plimpton Prize for her stories in The Paris Review and granted a creative writing fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Mossfegh is currently a Wallace Stegner fellow at Stanford.

You're invited to kick it with Ottessa at Booksmith's low-key answer to book clubs (no assignments). Ticket



"Think cocktail party, with a bookish twist." - Litquake

price includes dinner, drinks, swag, and a signed copy of "Eileen,"—all at a private party with the author.

In the foreboding, wintery, 1960s gothic northeast, a young, moody secretary at a boy's prison graduates from drinking and casual shoplifting to much more sinister affairs. Dark, gritty, cinematic, and one of our favorite debuts of the year.

Drink some wine, meet other readers, bring an anti-beach read you've enjoyed and want to trade. You'll sit in small groups, talk about your books, switch every 20 minutes or so, and at the end we'll have a big, rowdy, white elephant swap.

\$30 / Tickets must be purchased in advance, and they DO sell out. Check "tickets on sale now" at Booksmith.com

Three Vacancies Mean Major Changes on Cole Street

The loss on September 25 of La Boulange will leave empty one of the most important storefronts in the three-block Cole Valley commercial corridor. But it is not the only blow. The 9,000 square foot space left by the Cole Garage leaves a much bigger hole, and a loss of an important neighborhood service.

Next to those, a laundromat may not be seen as important, but, wait. If you don't have a washer and dryer, the loss of Doug's Suds, located on another important corner (Cole and Carl) is crucial. As it undergoes a \$1 million renovation, it will offer new tenants a chance to greet every person exiting the N Judah from downtown. Because the site offers riders their first glimpse of Cole Valley, CVIA has been in communication with the building owner about a mural on the side of the building depicting Cole Valley in its earlier life as part of the Lang Dairy Farm or some other historic view. The chances of that happening now depend on who the new tenant is.



Doug's Suds occupied a strategic corner in Cole Valley's commercial area.

Three thriving businesses are going at roughly the same time: Let's hope that those replacing them will not change the character of this unique little spot in San Francisco where we have made our home.

—Karen Crommie

Postscripts

If you haven't joined the website NextDoor, you are missing day to day news of fellow greater Haight-Ashbury residents. Everything from lost dogs to good housecleaners to free furniture. It costs nothing and they only require that you use your real name and live within the boundaries of your neighborhood designation. The exchanges are not public on a search engine, but available only to other registered members of your neighborhood. Go to nextdoor.com.

Captain John Sanford wants us to be aware of the number of cars speeding on Carl Street. "These dangerous speeds jeopardize the health and safety of all. They have temporarily placed a radar trailer on Carl Street to remind motorists of their speed. Those who ignore our community engagement request and endanger others on our roadways will subject themselves to a citation."

The San Francisco Chronicle's Mommy Files features 100 things kids should do in San Francisco before they grow up. From touching a tortoise at the Randall Museum to taking a bike ride along JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park, our city parks are full of exciting and wonderful discoveries that appeal to the young and young-at-heart. Park Station would like readers to know that numbers 54, 57, 67, 77, 81, 87, and 100 are some of their favorites. Visit the following link <http://blog.sfgate.com/sfmoms/2015/07/12/100-things-all-san-francisco-kids-should-do-beforethey-grow-up/#photo-662097>

CVIA is on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/CVIASF and please "like" us



Letters

Dear CVIA,

Today was a wonderful Cole Valley experience. It started with the police, Park Station, ringing my bell at 11 a.m. There was a kitten reported by La Boulanger patrons to have gone under my car. Could they have the keys to open the hood to get the kitten. Nine hours, three cars, three squad cars, three Animal Control crews, countless Cole Valley residents all taking part. The kitten was rescued. It was really beautiful. Everyone took an active role. Someone must adopt this kitten.

Marc Baum

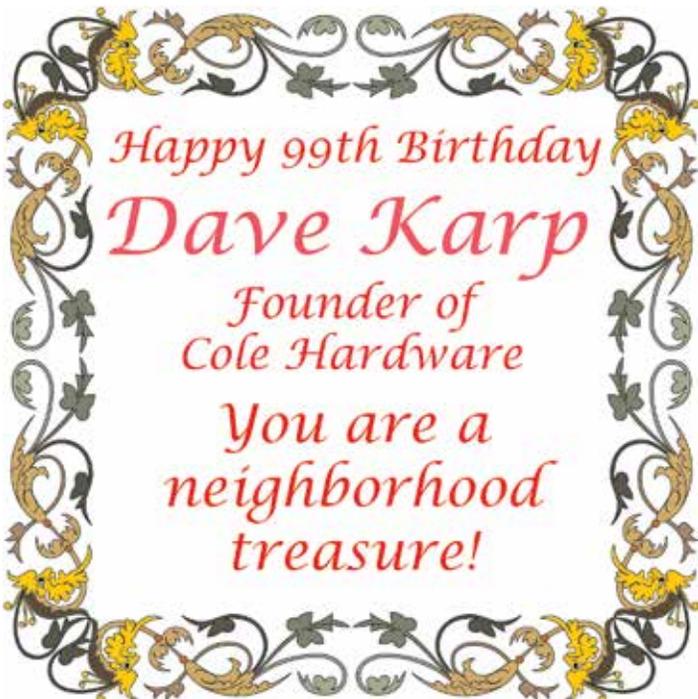
Ed note: The following response is from the city's Animal Care and Control Department.

The Kitten is doing fine and is in foster care along with a female kitten who was found in another car engine the following day. We're hoping to find a home for them together—they just needed a little more socialization. There is absolutely no chance of him being put to sleep. We do not do that for space, only for severe health concerns or very aggressive behavior. We also work with other shelters and numerous rescue partners to find placement for animals if they can't be adopted from our agency.

*Deb Campbell
Animal Care & Control*

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 October 20, 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



Help

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

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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 _____

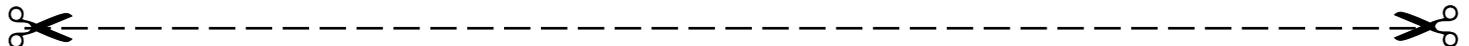
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

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

Dues and contributions to Clean Cole Street may be taken as charitable deductions. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law.



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

