

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIX

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

FALL 2016

Supervisor Breed is Coming to the Summer Social. Are You?

Photo: progressdems.com



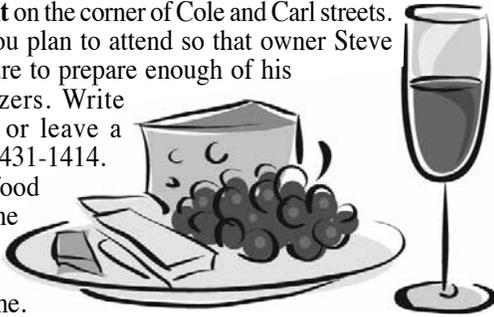
It will be the usual relaxed afternoon of schmoozing, snacking, sipping and making neighborhood connections. There will be presentations, commendations and the election of officers. We are delighted to be welcoming Supervisor London Breed to her first visit to this annual event.

Please join us at **1 p.m. on Saturday, August 27 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 the \$10 per person entry fee. Your guests are welcome.



Cops Shine on Night Out

There's something sweetly old-fashioned about the National Night Out. Created in 1984 to empower residents of crime-ridden neighborhoods all over America to get out on the street on a summer night to party with the police, it remains as a holdover of a more innocent time—before endemic racism was on the front page of every paper.

Nevertheless, the crowd that showed up on August 3 for barbecue and community outreach was the largest in memory. Maybe it was the Duboce Park venue. But then again, it might be a show of support for a police force that has been through hell the last year but whose officers still show up to protect us around the clock. One retired cop wore a t-shirt that summed it up—“Blue Lives Matter.”

—Karen Crommie

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Alpha Market to Change Hands

It's hard to think of Cole Valley without Alpha Market—and Alpha Market without Abe Saba at the helm. For thirty years he and his brother Sam have been supplying our neighborhood with the staples of life, from veggies and toilet paper to choice fruit and gin. But that's soon drawing to a close as the sale of the market becomes final. Abe recently told Hoodline feature writer Walter Johnson that the need to fully recuperate from a recent operation had helped him make the decision.

The lucky taker is Luke Chappelle, who lives on Potrero Hill and runs an online food-delivery service called Luke's Local. This will be his first brick and mortar store. Chappelle comes with a pedigree: not only has he made a success of his online business, his parents founded Tom's of Maine, one of the world's largest “personal care” enterprises.

Luke's plans to carry the same food categories that Alpha did and will add the prepared dishes that are their hallmark, along with bakery products and fresh flowers. “We want to service people and allow human interaction but still be flexible,” said Chappelle to Eater.com's Ellen Fort. “And as a bonus to neighborhood residents within



Photo: David Crommie

Abe Saba has been a mainstay at Alpha Market for over 30 years. a set radius, they'll be able to place orders for delivery and receive them in just a couple of hours.”

Until Chappelle takes over, the neighborhood is trying to get used to the idea of losing Abe. Born Ibrahim Saba, he took a long journey to become owner of Alpha Market. He was born in Jerusalem when the West Bank was a Jordanian possession. He went to a trade school for Palestinian refugees and learned drafting and cost estimation for



construction projects. He worked as a cost estimator, first in the West Bank and then throughout southern Arabia, until 1987 when he tired of working in an office. On a trip to San Francisco to visit his two younger brothers, Sam and Jim, who were students at San Francisco State, Abe decided he wanted to change his life. He asked his brothers to look for a store to buy and when Alpha Market became available he left the Middle East for Cole Valley. Although he had no retail grocery store experience he learned quickly from Sam and Jim who had worked in grocery stores while going to State.

As he told me in a conversation years ago, "I don't want to take credit for all the friendliness of the neighborhood, but I think we helped. We care about our customers and our customers actually care about us. And it has been a really good relationship over the years. I've seen babies when they were born and I've seen them graduate from University. Some of them come back to see me and it's a great feeling. Cole Valley reminds me very much of the small village where I grew up. I don't feel as if I'm in a strange place."

The sale of the Market to Luke's Local is just another change in the neighborhood. Abe, like many of us, remembers when Padrecito was Ironwood, Finnegan's Wake was Maude's, Crepes on Cole was The Other Cafe comedy club, Kezar Bar and Restaurant was Bradley's, Cole Valley Pets, which, incidentally, Abe also owns, was a



Korean produce market, Peet's was the Metro Restaurant, Postal Chase was Prosperity Cleaners, Grandehos was a Chinese restaurant and La Boulangerie was Tassajara Bakery. As the city's mandatory seismic upgrade requirement has closed several of the stores, this is just another jolt to the Cole Valley's comfortable "village" center.

—David Crommie

Major Loss for Cole Hardware

On Saturday, June 18, a five-alarm fire gutted Cole Hardware's Mission Street store. Owner Rick Karp reports that they were able to relocate all of their staff members into their other stores but nearly 60 residents of the surrounding apartments were out on the street. In order to help these neighbors, all of their stores are collecting funds through their Coins for the Community program. They're working with the Mission Economic Development Agency to assure that 100 percent of money



collected will go directly to the fire victims. Cash can be donated in the spare change jars located at each register or through a credit or debit card during checkout.

Nature Lovers' Corner

We live in a metropolitan city, but not really. Here are resent missives from Cole Valley residents regarding their encounters with wildlife. First, a post on NextDoor.com from Jane Delworth.

"Last night (July 28) my dog, Houston, and I were 'attacked' by a raccoon about 10:30 p.m. on Beulah St. between Cole and Shrader. We saw three raccoons on a fence. Houston jumped and barked. I had grabbed him and we were starting the other way to get away when one of the raccoons jumped on his back, clawing and biting.

I tried to get the raccoon off when it turned and bit my leg. Lots of screaming and scuffling and the raccoon let go and ran away.



Don't be fooled by that cute face.

This may have been a momma raccoon with her two babies (well, teenagers, because they weren't small)."

This post triggered numerous responses from other Cole Valley/Haight residents who had been threat-

ened, chased, or as Delworth was, attacked. The message loud and strong is that they're dangerous, can carry rabies, and that a scratch or bite should be seen by a doctor.

But Wait, There's More.

In the meantime, Buena Vista West neighbor and longtime CVIA member Richard Magary reported the following on July 11.

For two nights I've spotted a coyote (no question) trotting up Buena Vista West on the sidewalk on the park side of the street, sniffing around a bit as it moved along. The first night, it left the sidewalk just opposite

555 and climbed half-way up the hillside. He sniffed and pawed a bit around a log under a tiny oak shrub, then moved a few feet south and pawed at a sunny, sandy spot near another log and oak shrub and proceeded to curl up snugly—the hillside sand likely



Rec and Park has issued a coyote warning.

comfy warm and still in full sun. It quietly napped there for over 20 minutes. The other day, I spoke with a neighbor who, last week, saw two of them together near the benches east of the Children's Playground.

—Karen Crommie

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.

Fond Farewell to Clay Barnett

If you're a coffee drinker in the neighborhood, you probably know Clay Barnett. He's been a friendly staple at Peet's for several years, which is long for a barista. The news is that he has taken a

Photo: Joan Downey



job at an online boutique based in Sausalito (Cle Tiles) as client representative. He loves it. Regular hours and great atmosphere — dogs running around in the office.

Clay grew up in New York and later Hawaii where one of his first jobs was working on a coffee farm. He then moved to Seattle where he became a barista. He worked at different cafes over the years including Coffee Cantata, the old Rockin' Java, the old Cole Valley Cafe, and most recently managing for Peet's.

I know I speak for his many customers when I say that Cole Valley will miss his friendly smile and warm personality.

—Carole Glosenger

Work Begins on Tank Hill Steps

The project to replace a deteriorated log stair trail from Belgrave Avenue to the top of Tank Hill, anticipated to begin in May, is finally underway. The new stairs will be box steps, constructed from Douglas Fir timber and compacted soil.



The Tank Hill Trail Improvement Project was selected to receive funding

as part of Round 4 of the Community Opportunity Fund Program

of the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond. Additionally, Cole Valley community members, led by Ilya Kaltman, donated approximately \$4,000 to the construction project.



Old steps have been removed (top) and new "box" steps of douglas fir await installation.

CVIA Members Offered Discount by Owners of Lavation

Lavation Studio is offering CVIA members special pricing on single classes and monthly unlimited memberships. Lavation Studio provides indoor cycling classes and HIIT classes (High Intensity Interval Training) with San Francisco's top fitness instructors.

There's a 50 percent discount for CVIA members in good standing. Classes, regularly \$30 per class are \$15 for CVIA members. A monthly unlimited membership, regularly \$220 a month, is \$110.

TO SIGN UP:

1. Go to lavationstudio.com and create a new account. If it is your first time on the site, a free class will be placed in your account.
2. Schedule your free class. (If you already have a Lavation account, skip to step 3.)
3. Bring proof of your CVIA membership with you to your first class (your "new member" letter, an email from CVIA, or a copy of the CVIA newsletter mailed to you).

Lavation Studio, located at 784 Stanyan St. (the former the Son Loy Laundry) is owned and operated by Jason and Erica Kajdasz and Mien Faville. The three partners also own MidLine personal training and Pilates studio at 515 Frederick St. Their roots go deep in the neighborhood having also organized and sponsored the Cole Valley Fair for the last four years.



LAVATION

Supes Ask: Are Quality-of-Life Citations Worth the Money?

The Board of Supervisors' budget analyst recently advised stopping citations for "quality-of-life" crimes, among them the Haight Ashbury's hard fought Sit-Lie ordinance. Why? The high cost of police services, its ineffectiveness, and requiring the police to do the job of a social worker.



All no doubt true. For example, the two police officers assigned to patrol Golden Gate Park at night to roust campers cost nearly \$200,000 a year, but the citywide tab is nearer \$1.8 million.

The study was requested by Supervisor Eric Mar in collaboration with the Coalition on Homelessness, whose director, Jennifer Friedenbach, made the familiar "criminalizing the poor" argument.

We all know that the indigent population is primarily mentally ill and/or substance dependent. We know they need supportive housing and meds and counseling. Many need to be institutionalized. But until these problems are worked out, can we afford to stop the disincentives? Don't ordinary families deserve the defense of some basic standards of behavior on the sidewalks of their neighborhoods?

—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 nine 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. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period June 2015 through July 2016. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Beacons: (\$1000 plus): *Tracy & Patrick Jennings*

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500): *Karen & David Crommie, Bill Mainzer, Loic Nicolas, Gay & Jack Reineck, Abby & David Rumsey, Irv Govan & Les Silverman*

Donors (\$100 - \$249): *Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Gina Centoni, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Diane & Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Carrie Denning, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Rita & Richard Felciano, Marianne Hesse, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Eileen Lemus, Bahereh & John Manning, Janan New, Ellena Ochoa & Ted Ridgeway, Leigh Ann Parente, Kerith & Tony Pucci, Rosemary Southwood, Michael J. Sullivan, Beth & Rick Thurber, Jill Wolcott & Mitchell Olejko,*

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): *Jamie & Ari Alexander, Anonymous, Kathleen Bertram, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Chris Broderick, Sarah & Alexander Crockett, Kate Ditzler & Stuart Gasner, Joan Downey & Ilie Gaceu, Deb & Todd Frederick, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Carole Glosenger, Douglas Hall, Shannon & Chris Hock, Mary & John Hooper, Robin & Richard Hornung, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Barbara Mow, Ellen & Richard Price, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Helen & Allan Ridley, Kendra & Billy Robins, Elaine Robinson, Susan & Steven Rosen, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Eileen & Kevin Thau, William Villaruel*

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): *Robert Anooshian, Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Judith Bishop, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Vallie Brown, Joan K. Boyd, Cathryn Brash, Donna Cooper, Karin de Brer, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Stu Etzler, Melissa & Glen Gee, Judy Groves & Kevin Dede, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Janet & Mark Hall, Jean Hayward, Gerardo Joffe, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vogensen, Lynn Kormondy, Dennis Martino, Midline Studios, Jane & Michael Miller, Olympia & Douglas Montgomery, Pat Nathe, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Robert Page, Michael Rafferty, Ellen Rashbaum, MeMe Riordan, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, William Rothrum, Brenda Stone, Serena Unger & Cole Roberts, Deborah Van Atta, Isabel Wade, Edward C. Walls, Mary Ann Wolcott, Victoria Zaroff*

Boosters (\$24 and below): *Anonymous, Kay Auciello, Sharon Birenbaum, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Tina & Oliver Brock, Elizabeth Corden, Ellen Curry, Mary Ann de Sousa, Beverley Epstein, Gloria Galindo, Elizabeth Lee Giles, John*

Greenwood, Minette & Isac Gutfreund, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Susan Hills, Maryann Hrichak, David Keller, Carolyn & Brendan McKenna, Celia Price, Diane & Bob Silver

A CLEAN
COLE
STREET



Our Neighborhood Heroes

2016 Merchant Participants

Alpha Market, Bambinos, BurgerMeister, Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Jerome's Antiques, Pacific American Group*, Postal Chase.

*Owners of 930 Cole Street (Cole Garage)

Masonic Upgrade Begins

Even as the revamping of Masonic (Masonic Avenue Streetscape Project) was being implemented, members of the SFMTA staff held yet another community meeting last month. In spite of the countless meetings that preceded it, and even after having heard all



The long-planned (and hotly contested) redesign of Masonic Avenue finally began on August 8.

the complaints about the loss of parking spaces, the work is going ahead as planned, as everyone knew it would.

Those who live on Masonic simply wanted a resurfacing of the rapidly deteriorating roadway and the speed laws enforced. Instead they got the whole enchilada of current traffic circulation and pedestrian safety tenets: lighted medians, raised bikeways, bulb-outs, wider sidewalks and a plaza on Geary Boulevard. All for \$26 million.

Maybe we'll love it. Who knows? In the meantime the north-south artery will be torn up for sewer work, (that's good) preceding the surface reconfiguration, and will go on through 2017. And about lost parking? SFMTA has added 20 spots on Fulton between Central

and Baker and has plans to compensate by “evaluating nearby streets for opportunities to increase the on–street parking supply.” And, yes, there will be more community meetings about that. It must be excruciating for Muni’s personnel to sit through these events with fixed smiles, but, unlike the community members who faithfully attend, they are being paid.
 —Karen Crommie

Cole Valley Sculpture at Risk

Owners of the property at 1591 Shrader street have applied for a permit to replace their front stairs, reconfigure the front entry and add a porch/balcony on the second floor. Oh, yes, they also want to add a detached garage in front of the lot. Therein lies the problem. Doing so will necessitate removing the dead Monterey Cypress tree into which is carved a winged woman. The work of artist Jack Mealy, it is called the “Angel of Hope” and closely resembles the property’s original owner, Pat Montandon, famous beauty and ex-wife of both Melvin Belli and Al Wilsey, and all-round do-gooder (that’s where the “hope” comes in). Her son Sean Wilsey wrote the tell-all book about step-mother Dede Wilsey.



Shrader Street icon or...monstrosity?

When she was still living in the house, she told me that the carving had never been finished and, in fact, she was no longer speaking to the sculptor—was even reluctant to tell me his name. Personally, I always thought it was a monument to Montandon’s vanity, but was surprised to find that others in Cole Valley find it beautiful—even beloved. Like the Doggie Diner mascot and the Sutro

Tower, tastes change. To many who came after, these former eyesores are part of the fabric of the city. Such seems to be the case with the Angel.

—Karen Crommie

Nominees for New Officers

The following CVIA board members have been nominated to hold offices in 2016-17. Voting will be held on August 27 during the annual meeting at Kezar Bar and Restaurant (900 Cole St.). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

- PresidentChuck Canepa
- Vice President Carole Glosenger
- Treasurer Joan Downey
- Secretary Karen Crommie

Nominees need to have been a member of the CVIA Board of Directors for one year.

Remembering Maud’s...at Finnegan’s Wake

On Pride Weekend, State Senator Mark Leno was at Finnegan’s Wake bar on Cole to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a memory. The longest lasting lesbian bar in America, Maud’s, flourished on



Femme and butch, all came together at Maud’s on Cole Street.

that site for 33 years. Neighbors remember the motorcycles parked along the block on a Sunday afternoon. An independent film called “Last Call at Maud’s,” documented its history and characters

The film’s website notes, “Maud’s popular bartenders say they saw it all – passionate affairs, undercover detectives, emotional arguments and drunken brawls. They also tell us they’ve seen shifts within the lesbian community toward public visibility and healthy sobriety.”

Surprise Offer of Path Lighting in Cole Valley Park from MTA

For several years we have asked the SFMTA, owner of the small park at Cole and Carl to install unobtrusive lighting along the path leading from the N-Judah stop to Shrader Street. Over the years Muni representatives have given us outrageous estimates of cost and advised us that, short of a neighborhood uprising, chances were less than slim. But on July 13, the following letter was received by CVIA president Chuck Canepa from MTA’s public relations officer Jay Lu.

Dear Mr. Canepa:

After hearing the concerns from CVIA about poor lighting conditions at the Richard Gamble Memorial Park, we have looked at ways we can implement immediate changes that would make this neighborhood hub feel safer and more inviting at night. As you may know, in April we changed the bulbs and trimmed the trees that obscured the lights as a quick fix.

In the coming month we plan to make further efforts to improve the lighting conditions in the park. Over the next two to three weeks, the SFMTA plans to replace the existing HPS bulbs that are old and outdated with the new LED fixtures. The new fixtures are more energy efficient and meet the city’s safety and security requirements. More importantly, they are equipped with dim pots and house-side shields, which means we can adjust the brightness and direction of the lights, if necessary, to help address any concerns raised by the neighbors.

CVIA is astounded at this turnaround, vaguely suspicious, and wholeheartedly grateful. For more information, contact jay.lu@SFMTA.org.

Public Bench Project

Have you noticed the whimsical benches scattered throughout Inner Sunset? Chris Duderstadt, Inner Sunset Park Neighbors board member, has supplied 46 benches over the past few years from the Outer Richmond to the Upper Castro “to provide a comfortable place for the weary to rest and to thereby foster positive casual community interaction.” He understands that “there are manifest issues with public seating, but with proper placement, these benches serve a positive function for our neighborhood and city. People generally love them and they have gone a long way toward humanizing our cityscape.”

Chris has generously offered those benches to Cole Valley residents and businesses.

The owner/guardian of the property requests a bench to be placed in a publicly accessible location, chained to something, and of course not blocking public access. First a temporary bench is



There is a growing demand for Chris Duderstadt’s handcrafted benches.

put in place with contact information and IF there are any issues they are accommodated or the bench is removed. Chris handles the permits required by the city.

All benches are donated but he accepts contributions, if offered, of \$50 to defray the cost of materials for the next bench.

The benches are made of kiln-dried 2 x 4s of similar design, but various lengths to best-fit specific location and varied leg lengths to accommodate unlevel locations. They get 4 coats of prime and finish paint plus a coat of graffiti resistant epoxy. The color and occasional graphic design are determined by the host. For more information go to publicbenchproject.wordpress.com/

Interested? Contact Chris at cdmd@sfpix.com (and let CVIA know when you have one!)

—Joan Downey

CVIA Officers

- President..... Chuck Canepa
- Vice PresidentAmy Blakeley
- TreasurerJoan Downey
- Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
- MembershipLena Emmerly
- Community RelationsAmy Blakeley

Clean Power and Underground Utilities: Community Briefing

CVIA hosted a night of informative presentations on the evening of Wednesday, August 3, at the Waller Center. It was all about Power. Utility power, that is.

Michael Totah, representing the SF Public Utilities Commission, described CleanPowerSF as a program that will significantly increase the



Michael Totah explains the coming changes to greener energy.

proportion of electrical energy supplied to the San Francisco grid from local renewable sources, decrease the city’s greenhouse gas emissions, and help combat global climate change, while meeting or exceeding California’s standard for renewable energy. The only thing that changes is that you receive cleaner energy at a competitive price. PG&E continues to deliver your electricity, maintain the power grid and respond to outages. PG&E also continues to send your monthly bill (with CleanPowerSF charges replacing certain PG&E charges).

For those who are passionate about renewable energy, a premium program called Super Green is available where, for a nominal fee of around \$5 per month, 100 percent of the energy coming into the grid



All rate payers fund undergrounding as part of their monthly bill: Those who already have it are being subsidized.

will be from renewable sources. Those residents who currently have solar can also participate in the program, and should visit www.sfwater.org and select CleanPowerSF from the Environment menu, as there are programs for solar users as well. The program is rolling out in Districts 5 and 8 first; you

should expect more information in the coming months

The second half of the evening was given to Greg Polchow of the SF Coalition to Underground Utilities. A grass roots organization made up of residents throughout the city, SFCUU is committed to finishing the aborted effort to underground all San Francisco’s utility wires. Only 53 percent are underground at present. The wires not only detract from the natural beauty and views of the city, but present a safety hazard. SFCUU made a very convincing argument as to why we should all push this “one time and done” campaign by advocating for an increase in the city’s budget allocation. After enormous effort, SFCUU did manage to be included in the city’s two-year budget for the 2017-18 calendar year.

This money is earmarked for a comprehensive Master Plan to determine the scope, cost, and timeline for undergrounding. Much more money will be needed to complete the job. But if not now, when? If you would like more information about SFCUU or would like to participate, go to www.sfcuu.org.

Both presentations were well received by the audience members, who were able to ask many questions and get detailed responses in return. As a final bonus to the evening, President of the Board of Supervisors London Breed stopped by and spoke about some of the upcoming local ballot initiatives.

—Amy Blakeley

Plans Firm for Revival of Cole Garage Site: Docs, Yoga, Zazie

Speaking to the CVIA Board in July, Ryan Dougherty, director of Real Estate and New Development for GoHealth described their plans for on-demand medical services at the site of the Cole Garage (930 Cole Street). They will occupy the north half of the building's street front. In partnership with Dignity Health, this will be one of their six proposed Bay Area sites offering retail medical care twelve hours a day, seven days a week with extended evening



In spite of subdividing the interior, owners of 930 Cole have agreed to keep the old garage facade.

hours. Patient fees must be paid at the time of service and range from \$125 to \$375 per visit. They are “in-network” participants with many insurance providers. For more information contact their community relations representative Stephanie Dang. (stephanie.dang@gohealthuc.com)

Since GoHealth intends to use only 2,500 square-feet of the cavernous 9,460 square foot building, the south side is rumored to have been leased by a yoga/alternative health studio. The site developers (Pacific American Group based in Sausalito) intend to further divide the space into a second venue for the wildly popular Zazie restaurant. Not a duplicate of the restaurant across the street, but something different. Walter Thompson of Hoodline.com, who spoke with owner Jennifer Pierrat, reports that she plans a limited menu of favorite dishes from Zazie but is unsure whether it will be seating or a to-go operation. This will not happen soon: ahead of her is the daunting task of obtaining a zoning variance from the Planning Department for restaurant use of this designated retail space.

—Karen Crommie

Save the Date!
COLE VALLEY FAIR
Sunday, September 25, 2016

Craig's Unique Style of Giving

When Cole Valley's Craig Newmark donated \$50,000 to USF recently, it made a line in the Examiner. But the truth is that Craig donates thousands more to a wide spectrum of causes, from Blue Star Families to Trustworthy Journalism. On July 27, Craig posted (craigconnects.org) his view of how what he does differs from tradition, “I've practiced a different model, one that's focused on a



Craig Newmark, founder of craigslist.org

commitment to fairness and doing right by others. My philosophy has two basic tenets: First, stay focused on making a difference rather than making a killing. Second, as Kevin Spacey has said, ‘if you're lucky enough to do well, keep sending the elevator back down.’ My preference is to support people who are already effective at helping other people, while learning

how to engage much larger groups of people to help out.”

At last count, Craig is serving on the boards of seven different advocacy groups, among them: The Center for Public Integrity, the Consumers Union, and the Sunlight Foundation.

—Karen Crommie

Update on Cole Street Bus Bulbs (Or, How Government Works)

After the Cole Valley Street Fair last September, our design team began work on the documents for the Cole Street project. Due to requirements of the funding source utilized to construct the improvements, we had to combine the Cole Valley Bus Bulb project with the contract for the Inner Sunset Streetscape project, which included a large amount of scope and thus had a protracted design schedule. We have now completed the design documents for both projects and will be advertising the contract in the next few weeks. Once the contract has been awarded and construction begins, we will be asking the contractor to prioritize the Cole Valley scope of work. I anticipate that the work could begin late this Fall or early next year.

Mike Rieger, DPW Project Manager

Rash Move to Boost Housing

Sometimes issues on the state level affect even our little corner of San Francisco. Such is the case of legislation being pushed by Governor Brown that could make a draconian change in the look of our neighborhoods.

In an effort to address California's need for more housing, especially for families with low- and moderate-incomes, and acknowledging the backlog of such projects caused by CEQA reviews, local planning codes, and recalcitrant neighborhood groups (ahem), this measure simply does away with all these pesky restrictions. So long as a residential developer meets certain standards set by the state, the local government must grant that developer a permit to build “by right” without public hearing, height and bulk limitations, and without appeal to any local elected official. The only recourse is for the project's immediate neighbors to sue the developer. Assembly Bill 252 is in committee awaiting a hearing any day now. Register your opinion on the website of David Chiu (Assemblyman 17th District)

—Karen Crommie

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last three 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 415-661-0681 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 Long Range Planning CAC and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

June

Location: Home of Karen and David Crommie – June 6, 2016

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$20,159.63 out of which \$7,176.49 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund.

■ Received a presentation from Anne Brubaker and Don Emmons on the need for neighborhood organizations to demand that the city provide a long-range master plan to underground the city's utility lines, bringing it to the ballot if necessary. Citing the fact that European cities are 90 percent free of utility lines, and also the example of San Diego, which is currently implementing a comprehensive plan. She reminded board members that SF ratepayers have been paying for undergrounding for years a part of their monthly bill, and that those who live on streets whose lines have already been put underground (viz., Belvedere, Willard, Edgewood, etc.) should realize that they have been subsidized by the neighbors who live on streets still left with overhead lines

■ CVIA president Chuck Canepa will write a letter of endorsement to San Francisco Coalition to Underground Utilities, following the template they provided with copies to Supervisor Breed and Mayor Lee. He will also ask Anne Brubaker for brochures to distribute at our Fair booth (if she doesn't have her own booth.) Karen Crommie will write a newsletter article about the plan to unite the city in efforts to underground utilities.

■ Motion approved unanimously to change one word in CVIA By-laws, viz., number of board members would go from a maximum of 11 to 15. This will be announced to the membership in the Summer Social invitation

■ Lena Emmery will tell Vallie Brown that, although CVIA is supporting To the Streets with our recent \$1,000 grant, we are more than satisfied with our current street cleaning service (CleanScapes), which provides us with, not only twice-a-day sweeping, graffiti cleaning, tree well debris removal and steam cleaning, but also offers a path to union membership/benefits for entry-level employees who are willing to work. However, we will remain open to reconsider TTS for Cole Valley at some later time when their program is further developed. Hence, there is no reason to have them appear at the next CVIA board meeting.

■ Lena also reported on plans by the Park Police Station to host the annual National Night Out at 5 p.m. on August 2, at Duboce Park.

■ Chris Hock confirmed that Steve Schick has generously agreed to provide the Kezar Bar and Restaurant as venue for CVIA's Summer Social on August 27, 1 to 4 p.m.

■ Motion approved unanimously to accept Jason Kajdasz's proposal to offer 50 percent discounts to CVIA members at the spin/high intensity interval-training studio Lavation on Stanyan. Specifically, that means each Spin or HIIT class would be \$15.00 and monthly membership with unlimited classes \$110. Treasurer Joan Downey

to contact Jay and work out details regarding what will consist of "proof" of CVIA membership. Amy Blakeley will post an appropriate notice on CVIA's Facebook page. (Note: Facebook and Newsletter publicity are both part of the agreement).

■ Decided that the Summer Social announcement, via 5x7 postcard, should not only include mention of guest speaker, but also the upcoming vote for new officers and a bylaw change allowing more board members. Karen and David Crommie will produce said invitation for Board scrutiny no later than July 10.

■ Amy and Chris Hock to contact Kenneth Schoon about renting the Waller Center for a community meeting in late July regarding utility wire undergrounding, CleanPowerSF v. solar power and SF Coalition to Underground Utilities. Event has an initial budget of \$300. (Note: final topics to be decided on by Amy and Chris.)

■ Lena Emmery, with Amy's input, to retrieve an assortment of Cole-Carl t-shirts from Postal Chase for sale in CVIA booth at Fair. Lena will be responsible for writing addenda to the current contract subtracting the number of shirts from the initial Postal Chase inventory.

■ Change of date: Next board meeting will be the second Monday, July 11, because of the holiday, at the home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

July

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa – July 11, 2016

■ Board welcomed guests, Edward Walls, Cathy Haller, Vallie Brown, Stephanie Deng and Ryan Dougherty. Members excused: Shannon Hock, Amy Blakeley, Marianne Hesse, Chris Hock, Douglas Hall

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$19,729.10, out of which \$6,339.94 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund. She also announced that CVIA now has a phone number through a free Google service.

■ Lena Emmery reported that CVIA had been copied in a letter to Rec and Park complaining about the noise from a soccer game on Sunday, July 10, in which strident drumming persisted throughout the afternoon and quantities of colored powder was released into the air. Motion approved unanimously to write to Rec and Park urging that the group be denied a permit in the future. Joan to draft letter for President Chuck Canepa to send.

■ In her review of the last CPAB meeting, Lena also reported that the National Night Out scheduled for August 2 will take place at 50 Scott St. (Harvey Milk Center-Duboce Park)

■ President Chuck Canepa reported on discussions at a recent meeting at UCSF regarding conflict between a janitorial sub-contractor and direct-hires by the university. Chuck felt that detailed labor relations was not an appropriate issue for a citizen's advisory committee. He also reported that Lily Wong has been appointed UCSF's community relations representative, taking the position of Christine Gasparac, who is now serving as Interim Director of that department.

■ Motion passed unanimously to appoint Cathy Haller to replace Douglas Hall on the board of directors.

■ Lena confirmed that Maryo Mogannam (Postal Chase) has approved removing some of the "Cole and Carl" t-shirts from his stock for sale at CVIA's booth at the Cole Valley Fair. Amy Blakeley will determine a selection of sizes and styles to sell. Efforts to make the shirts available to sell at Cole Hardware has been put on hold because of necessary regrouping after the devastating fire in their

Mission Street store.

■ Ryan Dougherty, from GoHealth described their plans for on-demand medical services at the site of the Cole Garage. (See article on page 7.)

■ Vallie Brown, former administrative aide, now housing specialist, for Supervisor London Breed, gave the board an impassioned plea to replace our current sidewalk-cleaning firm, CleanScapes-Recology, with the transient youth work-for-housing organization To The Streets, which also provides sidewalk-cleaning services.

Although the Board had decided last month to donate \$1,000 to the organization, they were unconvinced that the participants' work was up the standards required by Clean Cole Street. So ardent is Vallie's belief in TTS, she has volunteered to join their board of directors. We were very moved by her arguments but will wait until organizer Chris Calinsky leaves his present job to concentrate full time on building this innovative homeless-relief model and providing additional training.

■ Agreed that commendations should be given to Abe Saba to mark the end of Alpha Market, to Christian Calinsky for cofounding To the Streets; and to longtime CVIA member Douglas Hall, who is stepping down from the CVIA Board of Directors after over 25 years.

■ Motion unanimously approved to support the reform initiative offered by the San Franciscans for Sunshine to add amendments to the Sunshine Ordinance strengthening its power to enforce a more open government. (Go to www.sanfranciscansforsunshine.org)

■ Motion unanimously approved to cast a "yes" vote in a motion currently before the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods urging the City to ensure that the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) is expedited allowing Caltrain to service the new Transbay Transit Center no later than 2024. (The CVIA Board does not want DTX to be delayed by the longer-term Railyard Alternatives and I-280 Boulevard Feasibility Study (RAB), but rather to develop the system incrementally, possibly considering RAB as a later project.)

■ Motion unanimously approved to cast a "no" vote in a motion currently before the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods urge the SF County Transportation Authority and the SFMTA to oppose the Geary Blvd. Bus Rapid Transit plan. (The CVIA Board supports the BRT plan as sound transit policy.)

■ Motion failed which would lend CVIA's support to a proposed parcel tax to pay for care of all street trees, two yes, three no.

■ Joan to report back about possibility of making Chris Duderstadt's hand-crafted benches available to members. Unknown are dimensions, cost and delivery time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

August

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger – August 1, 2016

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$17,250.10, out of which \$5,453.94 is presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund.

■ In her review of the last CPAB meeting, Lena Emmery reported that Park Station is energetically promoting National Night Out on August 2 at Duboce Park. She will be contributing numerous batches of homemade cookies and encouraged all board members to attend.

■ Amy Blakeley reported that she had posted the CVIA discount on membership to Lavation (fitness studio) on the CVIA website. She also posted notice of CVIA's special informational meeting at the Waller Center on August 3 reviewing CleanPowerSF and also

the SF Coalition to Underground Utilities. She submitted the evening's schedule and logistics and encouraged all to spread the word.

■ Chuck Canepa reported on UCSF's purchase of multiple lots on Mariposa Street, extending their presence in Mission Bay and also a new venue for physical therapy on the ground floor of a building on the southwest side of Divisadero and Bush. In addition, he announced a meeting of the Sutro Forest Technical Advisory Committee meeting on August 18 at the Aldea Center, 155 Johnstone Drive.

■ Regarding CVIA's "Cole and Carl Street" t-shirts, now being sold at Postal Chase, owner Maryo Mogannum has agreed that we can remove a selection of sizes to sell at the Cole Valley Fair. Cathy Haller and Amy Blakeley will secure them, giving Maryo an inventory list of those removed from his stock with a copy to the treasurer. Accompanying these shirts will be the stock held by Lena Emmery.

■ Both Joan Downey and Marianne Hesse have volunteered to work the reception table at the CVIA Summer Social and Annual Meeting on August 27. Joan will bring the PayPal credit card reader. David Crommie will rent a public address system. Board members are to arrive at 12:30. Reminders to members will be emailed on August 17. Erica Kajdasz to bring Fair posters, Canepas to bring banner. Other board members confirmed lesser duties.

■ In response to a message from a group called the "People of Parkside Sunset" asking us to join their fight against transit-friendly upgrades proposed for Taraval Street, a motion to take a position on this issue was defeated 7 to 2.

■ Several members expressed difficulty in retrieving messages from CVIA's new Google phone service. This is to be resolved before we make it available to members.

■ Joan Downey to notify SFMTA's Jay Lu and Candace Sue that CVIA has contacted its members regarding the city's willingness to provide low-level lighting along the path through the Muni-owned Richard Gamble Memorial Park, leading from the N-Judah stop at Cole and Carl to Shrader Street. In addition she will ask the SFMTA to notify the residents whose backyards border the path—reminding them that because not all of these residents are members of CVIA, they may not be aware of the project.

■ CVIA was notified that the owners of the property at 1591 Shrader Street want to construct a garage, which will necessitate removing the figure of a winged woman carved in the remains of a dead tree in front of their property.

■ Marianne Hesse reported on a meeting convened by Cosi Fabian and Christin Evans at the Park Branch Library on July 28 for neighborhood seniors interested in activities and services in the greater Haight Ashbury. Acting as facilitator, Christin asked attendees what they did now and what they would like to do. She will circulate the list to be used as a basis for a follow-up meeting. We are one of the few neighborhoods that do not have a senior center.

■ Board voted to cancel the September meeting because so many members will be absent. Instead, a meeting will be conducted at 4:00 p.m. at Kezar Bar & Restaurant immediately following the Summer Social. Agenda will be focused on the upcoming Cole Valley Fair (September 25)

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

Waller Street Misused by Corporate Commuter Buses

Why are the so called “Google Buses” traveling on Waller Street—roughly one every five minutes—when the S.F. Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) mandated that these buses were to be limited to arterial streets? It’s because the MTA used the Caltrans Arterial map showing Waller Street from Masonic to Kezar as an arterial roadway.

It’s unclear why Waller was originally designated as an arterial street since the Department of Transportation guidelines characterize an arterial as a street with a higher speed limit, an absence of cross



Photo: Joan Downey

Three corporate busses in a row using Waller Street as a main route.

traffic and driveways, and multiple travel lanes serving the highest traffic volume corridors.

The current Commuter Shuttle Program that started in April 2016 will run for a year. One of the stated benefits is that it would “... keep larger shuttles on designated arterials and off smaller streets.” For that reason we need to urge the MTA to keep buses off two-lane, residential Waller Street. It’s not too early to contact the MTA to ask that the commuter shuttle buses be limited to real arterials. Caltrans has said that a municipality can change the designation from their map if they want. And Waller Street residents want!

—Joan Downey

Ed. Note: For more information, google “sfmta commuter shuttle program”; the map is under “Documents & Reports” as “Map of Approved Commuter Shuttle Stops.”

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain John Sanford holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:00 p.m. He gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It’s a good way to stay in touch with what’s going on. The meetings are held at Park Station’s Community Room (1899 Waller).



September 13, October 11, November 8
Mark Your Calendars

Positive Changes at Alford Lake

When CVIA started the monthly volunteer gardening program in 2008, most people had given up on the Stanyan Street entrance to Golden Gate Park. Even after years passed, then park supervisor



Photo: Susan Strolis

Recreational activities can transform the feeling of Alford Lake.

Gloria Koch-Gonzalez remarked that no amount of garden work would change the druggie culture of that area surrounding Alford Lake without activities that brought in members of the general public, who, at that time, were avoiding it like the plague.

It was many years later, when the gardening crew had been taken over by Susan Strolis, that a bike rental concession gained permission to operate at the park entrance and almost immediately changed the lounging habits of the indigent youth accustomed to having free run. Then, last month, Red Umbrellas staged an art show there. An art show at Alford Lake? Yes. And people came, and again, the disreputable hangout was changed even more.

Why is this so encouraging? Because Alford Lake has been the scene of not just drug dealing, bicycle chop shops, littering and camping, but violent crime. A body turned up on May 24 floating face down after being tortured for three days by local indigents.

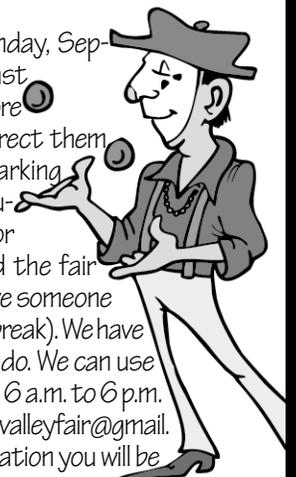
Named after park commission president William Alford, it was he who donated the funds that led to the development of the tiny lake. It’s bridge is a civil engineering landmark, being the first constructed of iron-reinforced concrete in 1889.

Most important, it’s two large pillars mark the main pedestrian entrance to one of the nation’s most beautiful city parks. But because of its threatening undercurrent, neighbors and tourists alike have avoided it. That may be changing.

—Karen Crommie

Cole Valley Fair: Get Involved

The Cole Valley Fair will be on Sunday, September 25. We need volunteers! Last year vendors told us we needed more people to help during setup to direct them to their spaces and help with parking at Grattan School; monitoring musicians’ time-slots; and as vendor “booth-sitters” (circulate around the fair asking vendors if they need to have someone mind their booth while they take a break). We have these and other tasks for you to do. We can use your help for an hour or a day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you can help, send an email to colevalleyfair@gmail.com with your name; time and duration you will be available; and any limitations you have.



Haight Street "Improvements" Postponed, but Still on City Hall's Work List for 2018

On the evening of July 6, community members gathered in the Park Branch meeting room to review the latest designs proposed for Upper Haight street. The project, which started in 2012 as a "public realm" visioning, was pushed ahead by SF Municipal Transportation Agency, (MTA) which had earmarked dollars for their Muni Forward plan to speed the buses.

At the meeting, Department of Public Works planners Martha Ketterer and Fiona Cundy showed designs with alternatives for pedestrian-scale light fixtures, as well as identifying features and tile work at the corner of Haight and Ashbury. Also discussed at the meeting was the possible removal of up to one-third of the street's trees, which are in poor shape and may not survive the project's disruption to their root structure. Construction work is scheduled to start early in 2018 and to last at least 18 months, sometimes blocking access to Haight Street merchants.

—Christin Evans

Ed note: As formerly reported, Haight merchants persuaded DPW and SFMTA to postpone work for a year to accommodate the expected surge of visitors during the 50 year anniversary of the Summer of Love.

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

Acting Chief of Police Toney Chaplin553-1551
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103

District Attorney George Gascón553-1741
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
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Captain John Sanford, Jr242-3000
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 John.Sanford@sfgov.org

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10. Malia Cohen Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11. John Avalos John.Avalos@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

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 cviase@aol.com



CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Winter edition should be sent before October 15, 2016 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

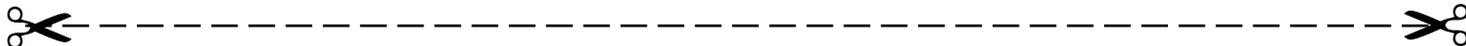
If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know at CVIASF@aol.com

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 _____

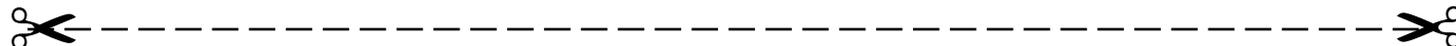
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

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