

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIX SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY SUMMER 2016

Crime Wave in Cole Valley

Yes, yes, everybody is now aware of the New York Times and Atlantic articles citing San Francisco with the highest rate of property crime in the nation. But does this actually impact the Haight and Cole Valley? First and foremost are car break-ins. Cars with items visible in the interior are targeted by “smash and snatch,” an average of 70 per day citywide. Cars that are left unlocked are the favorite of the passive “try all doors” actor. Bike theft is so



The Ice Cream Bar was just one target of recent break-ins.

prevalent that the SFPD has a sting program of “Bait Bikes” by which they try to trick the crook into an arrest. It’s a disturbing fact that property crime has risen 60% in the last six years.

But even more disturbing are break-ins to homes, garages, plus stolen mail and packages. In Cole Valley during the past month, both the Ice Cream Bar and Val de Cole experienced burglaries through their skylights, setting some to wonder if Google Maps might reveal these weak entry spots of a building.

The causes are probably a mixture of circumstances. Fingers often point to the street-dwelling population of mentally ill and addicted who’s motivation is the oldest of all: money to go on living. Others blame the permissive attitude of city government which has, for years, allowed themselves to be bullied by the various organizations of homeless advocates and politicians like Supervisor Campos, who confuses law enforcement with what he calls “criminalizing poverty.”

Then there is the State’s Prop 47, passed in 2014, which, in an effort to lower prison population, reduced six nonviolent felonies to misdemeanors. The bar for felonies has been raised to \$900 (with some exceptions), meaning that you can steal a bike, gun or a cell phone and, so long as the cost is beneath that figure, you will not go to jail. In the meantime our DA is feuding with the Chief of Police. Go figure.

—Karen Crommie

Too Mellow to Be Responsible

What is quickly becoming a date as venerated as Christmas, “Four-Twenty” (4/20) appears on the calendar, not only of every pot-smoking Bay Area resident, but every San Francisco City



Unofficial, unpermitted and illegal, 4/20 drew an estimated crowd of 15,000—apparently, none Sierra Club members.

Department. The toll of this non-permitted event attracting an estimated 15,000 people to Golden Gate Park’s Sharon Meadow is growing every year.

Rec and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg counted 22,000 pounds of trash that had to be collected after the crowd of tokers made their way home, at a cost of approximately \$25,000. But add to that the cost of police protection, Muni rerouting and DPW’s clean up of the adjoining neighborhoods, the total cost rises to an estimated \$100,000 of taxpayer money.

But, not to worry, the appeal of this event will no doubt die with impending pot legalization. Four states and the District of Columbia have already legalized marijuana for recreational use. Nevada and California could make it six when voters consider ballot initiatives later this year. Call it a matter of time.

—Karen Crommie

INSIDE

Board Minutes	7	Police Meeting	3
Cole Valley Fair	6	Postscripts	9
“Deltas” at Kezar	3	Reward Received	2
Empty Storefronts	2	Seismic Reprieve	9
Help	11	Supporters	4
Letters	11	Susan Strolis Honored.....	3
Navigation Center	5	Sutro Forest	8
No Stop Sign	4	Tank Hill	6

“For Rent” Signs Pepper Haight

Noticed all the empty storefronts on Haight Street? Think of it as a downward spiral of success. High volume on the street means high demand for space, which leads to high rents. But the chain stores that could afford to meet the costs are banned in the neighborhood under rules of the Haight Neighborhood Commercial



Zoning regulations. Add to that, the city’s mandatory soft story retrofit of buildings with over five units, and you have potential renters hesitating to commit to lease with the possibility of having to close down for retrofit work or trying to run a business during



construction work. Thanks to the detective work of Hoodline.com’s Amy Stephenson, we know that Haight Street commercial ground floor space averages around \$65 dollars a square foot, compared to the city’s average of \$46.

There is one kind of business, however, that has been able to flourish in this environment because their sales are mainly by Internet: the urban streetwear shops. They are easily identified by the expensive renovation, beautiful floors, paucity of stock and hipness of their clerks (um, sales associates). Diamond Supply, Black Scales, Pink Dolphin, Fresh Apparel, RVCA and the newest, Sol Disciples are their names. Michael Xavier, of the Haight Street Fair (and Trimmers), told me that these online firms want a flagship store in the Haight to build their brand. The fact that they are mostly empty, unless they have a new “release” (t-shirt, shoe, DJ photo op) doesn’t seem to matter.

—Karen Crommie

Haight Street Tree Removal?

Christin Evans, co-owner of Booksmith and board member of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association told us that, although the city is proceeding with the planning process to make significant changes to Haight street through the Muni Forward project, HAMA has succeeded in postponing the project’s start date to after the summer of next year. Because 2017 is the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love, merchants anticipate more than the usual crowd of tourists to the neighborhood.



When trees obscure the Haight’s old buildings is a tragedy or a blessing?

Part of the “improvement” project is the removal and/or replacement of street trees. Last month, the city’s landscape architect, accompanied by city planners, walked Haight Street to identify trees that may need to be removed or replaced based on a survey of tree health they’ve already conducted.

At the last neighborhood meeting conducted jointly by DPW, MTA and City Planning in February, DPW designer Martha Ketterer, told residents that she thought that many of Haight Street’s trees “hid its historic architecture,” and that she hoped some could be eliminated for a better overall look.

—Karen Crommie

Homeless Sleuth Receives Just Reward

In the last issue, we reported on the chronically homeless man who identified two escapees from an Orange County prison who were at large in Golden Gate Park. In spite of sleeping in the Botanical Garden, Matthew Hay-Chapman read the newspaper every day



After the usual layers of bureaucratic red-tape, Matthew Hay-Chapman got his \$100k.

and recognized the license plate of the fugitives’ van parked near Whole Foods Market.

We knew there was a reward offered, but posted figures are often whittled away as others come forward claiming “partial rewards” for providing various pieces of information leading to the arrest. Happily, this was not the case. Hay-Chap-

man, who walks with a cane, received the full \$100,000 reward from the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

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.

Citywide Recognition for the Haight's Susan Strolis

As part of the city's celebration of Women's History Month, Mayor Ed Lee and the Board of Supervisors honored Susan Strolis as the District 5 Woman of the Year. Susan, a board member of the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association (HAIA), is a tireless community activist. A lifelong artist, Susan is also a founding member of Friends of Alvord Lake, which meets every fourth Saturday morning to work on beautification and improvement projects at Alvord Lake.



Photo: Alain McLaughlin

Supervisor London Breed presents Susan Strolis with the proclamation naming her District 5's Woman of the Year.

(This effort was started by Karen Crommie, and Susan took over the leadership role when Karen stepped aside. Thank you, Karen.)

Through her photographs, she has documented HAIA activities over the years, and worked hard to pressure Rec & Park to commit to improvements at the eastern end of Golden Gate Park. She continues to be an intrinsic part of the leadership of the Friends of the Sharon Art Studio, the city's largest public art center. She teaches water aerobics at the Jewish Community Center and has established a flock of faithful (and grateful) students in her many classes. Please congratulate her on being District 5 Woman of the Year.

—Ted Loewenberg

SF Deltas at Kezar: Is Liquor a Necessary Part of Pro Soccer?

My husband and I attended the SF Recreation and Parks Commission hearing on March 17 at which the decision was made to go forward on the plan to have the North American Soccer League team, "The Deltas," play at Kezar Stadium for 15 to 20 Saturday and Wednesday games. It passed with strong representation, and the vote of the commissioners was unanimous. The Deltas will be making some upgrades to the Stadium lights, sound system, seats, locker rooms and tunnel as part of the deal. This was very persuasive to a Rec and Park Department starved of funds to maintain facilities. There was exceedingly low representation from neighborhood people who opposed the plan, except for the Kezar Advisory Committee, HANC, Cole Valley Improvement Assn., and a few other individuals. Several neighborhood groups were for the plan. The Deltas were well organized, had hired a skilled lobbyist, and brought in at least 60-plus supporters. But, in fact, their main supporters were the Rec and Park staff and the Commissioners. As you know, we heard from many neighbors on this site who scoffed at the idea that there could be any acting out related to alcohol. And of course, the enthusiasm for soccer, professional or not, took the main stage.

The permitting for the games, which will begin in January, 2017, is handled by the Park Police one-game-at-a-time to allow for examination of the plans for alcohol, traffic and parking.

I have a list of 29 people who are interested in working to



Photo: SFDeltas.com

Although the Rec and Park Commission has since approved the sale of alcohol, if unruly behavior results, neighbors will have an opportunity to intervene in the issuing of a permit for the subsequent game.

oppose liquor in the stadium, and I plan to communicate with neighborhood groups and especially with these neighbors who can help keep an eye on the games and document any bad behavior related to the games that is having an effect on the neighborhood.

Thanks to all those who have made input into this issue including writing letters and making calls. I know we all care about the neighborhood and want what is best for ourselves and our community.

—Eileen Auerbach

(Reprinted with permission from Hoodline.com)

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).



June 14, July 12, August 9
Mark Your Calendars

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



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, proceeds from the "Santa on Cole" photo shoot and the Annual Fall Raffle. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period May 2015 through April 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 Emmery & Charles Canepa, Gina Centoni, Linda Coda & Robert Brigante, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Diane & Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Carrie Denning, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, 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): Anonymous, Kathleen Bertram, Byron G. Bray, Jr., Chris Broderick, Kate Ditzler & Stuart Gasner, Joan Downey & Ilie Gaceu, Rita & Richard Felciano, Deb & Todd Frederick, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Carole Glosenger, Shannon & Chris Hock, Mary & John Hooper, Robin & Richard Hornung, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Michelle & Wallis Lim, Barbara Mow, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Helen & Alan 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, Sarah & Alexander Crockett, 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, Jason Kajdaz (Midline Studio), Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vognsen, Lynn Kormondy, Dennis Martino, Jane & Michael Miller, Olympia & Douglas Montgomery, Pat Nathe, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Robert Page, Michael Rafferty, Ellen Rashbaum, MeMe Riordan, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Brenda Stone, Serena Unger & Cole Roberts, Deborah Van Atta, Isabel Wade, Edward C. Walls, Mary Ann Wolcott, Victoria Zaroff

Boosters (\$24 and below): Jamie & Ari Alexander, 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, Ellen & Richard Price, Celia Price, Diane & Bob Silver, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell

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)

Stop Sign on Parnassus at Willard Rejected Again

Prompted by member requests, CVIA Board member Lena Emmery once again appealed to the SF Municipal Transit Agency to place a stop sign at the intersection of Parnassus and Willard. In a letter from MTA Senior Engineer Thomas Folks, the agency determined that "Although visibility is somewhat limited by the grades in this area, there exist adequate sight distances, as well as sufficient gaps in traffic, for pedestrians to safely cross Parnassus Avenue at this intersection. Drivers can gain adequate sight distances by edging forward moderately after coming to a full stop."



But the real reason came in Folks' last paragraph. "A factor influencing our recommendation about additional STOP signs is the routing of Muni's 43 Masonic and 6 Parnassus on Parnassus Avenue. While the effect of one additional STOP sign may have only a small impact on delay, the cumulative effect of additional STOP signs at other intersections can degrade Muni service. The City's Transit First policy requires that we pay particular attention to Muni's service requirements, especially when an intersection operates relatively safely.

So, to those of you who live on Willard and take your life in your hands entering and exiting your street, think of it as a small sacrifice for the speed of the city's transit. And thanks to Lena Emmery for the old college try.

Park Branch Library Open Hours

(1833 Page Street)

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

Navigation Center at Kezar: A Letter to Supervisor Breed

Dear Supervisor Breed,

The neighborhood is very concerned with the potential use of Recreation and Park land for housing and servicing indigent people. We have in fact been experiencing this for 30 years and the state of our parklands reflects the abuse. We want our parks back and do not want recreational land used for other purposes. We trust that any site discussions for a Navigation Center in the Haight Ashbury will involve the neighborhood groups including Cole Valley Improvement Association.



Photo: ocregister.com

In his effort to eliminate the city's illegal urban campgrounds, the Mayor created a free-style "Navigation Center," which was deemed a success. Now, each supervisorial district is expected to provide the same. Of the ten neighborhoods in District 5, why is the Haight being targeted?

Rumors have circulated that a Navigation Center is being considered adjacent to Kezar Stadium. In our view this is a non-starter. The thought of this type of center near a open facility centered on youth athletics is absurd.

Having toured the Mission navigation center, we can say that the operating rules (or a clear lack thereof) which allow users to come and go at all hours, no structured meals, etc, seems to be more centered on enabling a "living on the street" lifestyle rather than truly transitioning people to rehab and housing, and since housing for any significant number is, in reality, not available, where are the vast majority of these folks navigating toward?

The Kezar area is in close proximity to a very unsavory environment (Alvord Lake), well known for significant loitering and drug dealing. Allowing residents of a Navigation Center to roam the neighborhood at all hours at will does not serve either their wellbeing or that of the surrounding community. The fact that many homeless people have substance abuse issues poses the question: How do they pay for their habits? The obvious choices are panhandling or criminal activity.

Without a meaningful increase in supportive housing for those less fortunate, a forceful helping hand, and solid supervision to deter poor choices, we fear that the concept of a Navigation Center will be just one more in a long line of good intentions with minimal results and unexpected consequences.

Respectfully,
Charles M. Canepa
CVIA President

CVIA Supports Lodging for Homeless Kids Willing to Work

Christin Evans, representing the Haight Ashbury Merchant's Association, was a guest at the CVIA Board Meeting in April to present her case for the use of Kezar Pavilion and an area behind as one of the city's Navigation Centers. These are the residential, full-serviced places where those who are now living on the street can be brought to live with few restrictions for periods up to a year. Evans, who was accompanied by James Sword, President of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, wanted the four main resident organizations in the neighborhood to speak with one voice in supporting this plan, which would install modular communal housing adjoining the Kezar Parking lot with access to the toilets and showers in the Pavilion building.

During the discussion, Evans described the work of Chris Calinsky and Charlie Leduc, who have founded "To The Streets," a program supplying lodging to indigent youth in exchange for cleaning Haight Street (and more recently, lower Cole Street). The Board felt that it could support this effort of work for a home, but saw no benefit to the community for a group of people, many mentally ill and with drug addiction, in a Navigation Center placed in the heart of a major youth and recreational facility, with close proximity to both residential housing and the major drug-dealing scene at Alvord Lake.

As a result of this discussion, the Board at its May meeting conferred a grant of \$1,000 to To the Streets to assist in expanding this employment opportunity for indigent youth, who demonstrate a serious desire to work. The amount is based on \$250 per quarter

—Karen Crommie



Photo: sfgate.com

After seeing promising results of the year-old project, CVIA has given a grant to "To the Streets."

(Pictured: Maggie May)

What Happened to the Frederick Street Yoga Studio?

It had been at the corner of Frederick and Arguello for 27 years. We thought they would be rejuvenated when the recycling center, across the street, with its constant sound of glass breaking, was replaced by the Community Garden. But, no. Soon after the Garden opened, the Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Center moved to a new location at 1185 Vicente Street, in the Parkside/Outer Sunset area. A major loss for their hundreds of yoga students, many from the UCSF community.

The founder, Swami Vishnudevananda, had been a respected authority on Hatha and Raja Yoga in India. Upon the instruction of his guru, he headed to the West in 1957 and began traveling and teaching throughout the United States.

There are now nearly 80 Sivananda locations (ashrams, yoga centers, and affiliated centers) around the world.

We wish Sankari Chaitanya the best of luck in managing the new venue, even if we're a bit late.

Attention Artists, Vendors, Musicians and Car Buffs

The Cole Valley Fair will be back again for its 14th year on Sunday, September 25, 2016. The Cole Valley Fair continues to be a charming and well-attended event sponsored by local merchants and organizations with an outstanding record of community support. The fair features local art, jewelry and handmade crafts, great food, live music, a display of historical Cole Valley photographs, a full block of vintage automobiles owned by neighborhood residents, events for children including a jumpy house and obstacle course, and more!

If you are an artist with unique handcrafted work, we hope you'll apply for a booth space. The deadline is July 1, 2016. Priority will be given to Cole Valley residents, returning vendors, and promising new applicants. (Imported merchandise will not be considered). We will be accepting some applicants before the deadline date.



MIDLINE co-owner Erica Kajdasz skillfully organized the fair again this year.

We're also seeking musicians from all genres and styles for one-hour performance slots. The Cole Valley Fair is a small and intimate street fair where the right sound will attract a lot of attention.

And, yes, Cars on Cole will be back again this year. Never been to the event? We look for interesting, neighborhood vehicles. It need not be a "show queen" or vintage or rare. The range of vehicles in past years has been Citroen 2CVs; British, German, French, Japanese, and Italian sports and touring cars, heavy 30s-60s American Iron, Model A, modern hot rods, bicycles and motorcycles.

We hope you will be a part of the 2016 Cole Valley Fair. To download a vendor application visit the NEW website at: www.colevalleyfair.com/ or email colevalleyfair@gmail.com.

*Erica Kajdasz
Cole Valley Fair Organizer
Co-owner Lavation & MIDLINE*



Look at 'er go! After years of planning, construction of Urban School's new Oak Street addition is moving ahead at warp speed.

Appreciating Tank Hill

Ilya Kaltman, the brave neighbor who has been carrying the flag for rebuilding the Tank Hill Steps through layers of bureaucracy, told us that the last of the required hearings ended at the Rec and Park Commission on March 17. It was then that commissioners approved the funds transfer to make the project a reality.

Tank Hill gets its uninspiring name from the Clarendon Heights Water Tank built in 1894 by the Spring Valley Water Company to store drinking water pumped from Laguna Honda. Tank Hill became city property in 1930 when Spring Valley was acquired



Cole Valley's vista point still has remnants of the original water tank..

to establish the San Francisco Water Department. The prominent water tank was removed in 1957, and all that remains is its round foundation. Residents remember seeing goldfish flowing down Belgrave Avenue when the old tank was drained. In 1960, Tank Hill was sold as surplus property for \$230,000. In 1977, developers proposed building 20 houses, but the community convinced the city to buy Tank Hill back for \$650,000 from the recently created Open Space Program.

The steps are part of the daily hike of many Cole Valley residents who make Tank Hill a turnaround point from Clarendon to Belgrave, and vice versa. But for all of us, it is access to one of the most beautiful views of San Francisco—right in our own backyard.

Again, we thank the tireless work of Ilya Kaltman and to General Manager Phil Ginsburg and Supervisor London Breed, who, together believed in the importance of this project.

—Karen Crommie

Call for News

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



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 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 Citizens Advisory Committee (KSCAC), SF Municipal Transportation Agency's Citizens Advisory Council, the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), UCSF Long Range Planning CAC and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

March

Location: Home of Shannon Cooper & Chris Hock – March 7, 2016

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$19,952.50, out of which \$5,125.04 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund. Owner of the building at the southwest corner of Cole and Carl (Padrecito, Maine Attraction and Lavande) has contributed \$350, normally required for a single storefront, which will be posted as a general contribution. Postal Chase has sold approximately 20 Cole-Carl T-shirts. Joan also presented the budget for fiscal 2016-17, (March 1- February 28, 2017) which shows that CVIA should be able to meet it's financial obligations with some left for grants.

■ Motion to approve budget passed unanimously.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the Kezar Stadium's Citizen Advisory Committee (KSCAC) voted against bringing pro soccer team Deltas to Kezar because of their insistence on serving alcohol. It was a difficult decision because the team would bring many improvements to the facility including the quality of both light and sound. (They echoed the earlier decision of CVIA and HANC, however, the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association [HAIA] supports the soccer team's use of Kezar.)

■ KSCAC's decision resulted in reopening talks between the team reps, Rec and Park, and the Police Department (which ultimately issues permits). The SFPD asked that the lease be limited to 5 years and that the permit to serve alcohol be issued on a per game basis and only served in roped-off sections. At a City Hall meeting of PROSAC, (Park, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee) the matter was further discussed and given neither thumbs up or down. The issue is calendared for a Rec and Park Commission vote on March 17.

■ In her review of the last CPAB meeting, Lena once again reported the lack of meaningful action, excessive verbosity and appeals for fundraising for various SFPD activities (all worthy) but a time-consuming additional burden for neighborhood representatives.

■ Amy Blakeley reported that the CVIA website had been hacked for a second time and that member Mark Ballew had fixed the problem. (Such problems in WordPress are not uncommon.) Once again Mark has contributed his valuable time to CVIA and board members all expressed their appreciation.

■ Chuck Canepa reported that preparation for the massive seismic retrofit of UCSF's Clinical Sciences Building (521 Parnassus) is underway with demolition beginning in approximately three months. During the process a super-large crane will reside at the back of the building and loom over the worksite.

■ Chuck also said that the Sutro Forest Advisory Technical Committee, made up of forestry and fire-hazard reduction experts (volunteers, all), is now drafting a management plan and is making all the decisions. Sutro Steward director, Craig Dawson, was not asked

to join them in spite of the fact that he manages a large group of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to conserve and maintain the mountain's habitat and restore trails. The Stewards are now planning the first access point to the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve via a trail from Clarendon Blvd. This trail will also facilitate hiking to and from Twin Peaks and become part of a long anticipated reroute of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

■ Motion approved to donate \$100 to the Sutro Stewards c/o San Francisco Parks Alliance, Attn: Park Partners Program/Sutro Stewards, P.O. Box 170160, San Francisco, CA 94117

■ Carole Glosenger, who was absent, sent in a description of a fundraising "coffee" with Supervisor London Breed, at which the residents of Beulah Street adamantly protested possible plans by City Hall to erect temporary mobile units in the parking lot of Kezar Pavilion to serve the homeless population.

■ Board members unanimously reasserted their stand against 1) increased density in the neighborhood (see the AHBDP in last issue), additional social services (see Kezar Navigation Center in last issue), and the needle giveaway taking place three evenings a week on Cole Street.

(All three issues were covered in the Spring issue of CVIA News.)

■ Agreed that Joan Downey would invite John Hooper to address the Board about the State's water policy at the April 4 board meeting, which will be held at the home of Lena Emery and Chuck Canepa.

■ Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

April

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa – April 4, 2016

Special guests: Ari Alexander (CVIA), John Hooper (BVNA), Peder Jones (Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Assn.), Christin Evans (HAMA) and James Sword (HANC)

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$20,847.51, out of which \$5,483.04 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund. There was a brief discussion of how much cash to keep in reserve. A full discussion and decision was postponed until the May meeting. Joan also noted having received a letter against pro soccer at Kezar from the Belvedere Montessori School. (See Letters on page 11.)

■ Carole Glosenger reported that an ecology educational service has applied for a permit to operate out of the garage at 728 Cole Street. We are in principle against commercial use of residential space but Carole will investigate and report back.

■ Heard a presentation by John Hooper and Peder Jones against the Governor's Delta Tunnel Project. At \$15 billion, it is the largest infrastructure project in California history. After anticipated overruns and debt service, the actual cost could be as high as \$60 billion.) A hearing was held recently by State Senator Lois Wolfe questioning the wisdom of directing water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers around the delta (and the SF Bay) to flow south for agricultural use. 75 percent will go to "Westlands" agriculture, the majority of which is tree crops. The remaining 30 percent will go to Met Water of So. California, who will have the right to resell the water. The two water districts were recently fined for providing false testimony. In the last 45 years, we have already lost one half of the fresh water that used to flow through the Bay to flush it out and provide habitat for fish. Speakers believed the alleged fragility of the delta levees is inaccurate and that this is the peripheral canal redux (proposed project of 20 years ago, ultimately rejected.) Supervisor Scott Weiner (running for a State Senate seat in November) and Supervisor Mark Farrell and the Howard Jarvis group are also opposing it. For more information go to Protectourwater.net.

■ Chuck Canepa announced that the Technical Committee now managing the care of UCSF's Sutro Forest will meet on April 28 at 6:30 at 155 Johnstone Drive.

■ Karen Crommie briefly reported that the last CSFN meeting voted their recommendations for upcoming propositions (June 7 election). Prop A. \$220 million General Hospital bond for seismic upgrade of non-emergency buildings (Yes); Prop B—putting a 2.5 cent per 100,000 tax on property and setting aside 2% of general fund for Parks and Open Space (No); Proposition C, establishing an interim law that 25% of all units in new buildings will be designated for low and middle income residents (no position); Prop D hiring a 2-person team to investigate all officer-involved shootings (Yes)

■ Heard presentation from Christin Evans, Haight Ashbury Merchants Association, on a proposed homeless "Navigation Center." She was accompanied by James Sword, president of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Counsel. (See article on page 5)

■ Kristin also reported that the renovation of Haight Street called the "Haight Ashbury Public Realm Plan" has been postponed until 2018 due to the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love when merchants expect increase of tourism.

■ Motion passed unanimously to write a letter to Supervisor Mark Farrell in support of his Open School Yards initiative.

■ Motion passed unanimously to sponsor the 2016 Cole Street Fair (\$300)

■ Agenda items for May meeting should include: money reserves (profit and loss), fund-raising options, position on Delta Tunnel, grants (To the Streets, Sutro Stewards), report on UCSF TAC meeting, report from Carole Glosenger on 738 Cole street garage project, establishing a date for the Summer Social.

■ Adjournment at 9:15 p.m.

May

Location: Home of Marianne Hesse – May 2, 2016

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$14,474.61, out of which \$7,227 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund.

■ It was agreed that the Summer Social be on August 27, subject to approval by Steve Schick, owner of Kezar Bar and Restaurant. Chris Hock will make request to Steve personally and report back.

■ Amy Blakeley reported that, prior to Four-Twenty, she was posting information, on both the CVIA website and Facebook page, updates on street closures, security measures and transit route changes. She said that most of CVIA's online activity comes from its Facebook page, less from the website. Most of the interest is aimed at the Cole Valley Fair. Problems still persist on the website, with the Spring newsletter, which had been posted, but wasn't showing. Amy continues to work with CVIA member Mark Ballew to address problems.

■ Karen Crommie reported on a presentation given to the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods on the need for a \$3.5 billion bond to upgrade BART, scheduled to appear on the November ballot. CSFN also voted that member organizations must present their membership mailing list to the Executive Committee as proof of the number of active members (but will not leave the data with them). All CVIA contact information will be kept confidential.

■ Motion passed unanimously to oppose the Delta Water Tunnel project. A letter will be written by the president and sent to John Hooper (Buena Vista Neighborhood Assn.), who is gathering letters from a wide range of city neighborhood organizations to present to the California State Department of Water Resources.

■ Marianne Hesse reminded Board that next year will be the 30th

anniversary of the founding of CVIA by Alan Merbaum. All agreed that some kind of commemoration should be planned.

■ Both president Chuck Canepa and board member Chris Hock have been in communication with Anne Brubaker, chairman of the SF Coalition to Underground Utilities and will ask her to attend the next meeting to find out how we can involve ourselves in this long term endeavor.

■ Lena Emmery reported that her recent attempt to get a stop sign on Parnassus at Willard was once again met with defeat. (See article on page 4)

■ Motion passed unanimously to become a sponsor of "To The Streets," the program by which indigent youth can earn housing by cleaning Haight Street. The commitment is for \$1,000 to be paid in two payments of \$500 over a period of one year.

■ Motion passed unanimously to send a check for \$400 to the Mt. Sutro Stewards to accompany the \$100 sent last month, making our total contribution of \$500 for the year.

■ Next meeting will be at the Crommies' on June 6. Agenda items include deciding on a speaker for Summer Social. Because of the holiday, the July meeting date will be changed to the second Monday, July 11.

■ Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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.

Study of Sutro Forest Revealed

Because of the years-long controversy, UCSF last year delegated all forward planning for Sutro Forest to a group of professionals convening as the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). At their meeting on April 28th, they presented their 55 page plan to the public.

Their top priority is public access and the safety of people and structures. No herbicides will be used in the preserve. Additional objectives are to preserve the health of the ecosystem, and insure visual and design aesthetics.



Highlights of the presentation related to survey results of the two largest areas of forest. "Forest Type One," which covers an area of 24 acres contains, per acre: 279 trees, 110 dead standing trees, and 87 trees with less than 20 percent live crowns. "Forest Type Two," containing 18 acres, contains, per acre: 128 trees, 50 dead trees and 68 trees with less than 20 percent live crowns.

This is not a picture of a healthy forest, so extensive work needs to be undertaken without delay. UCSF has partnered with the non-profit Sutro Stewards who built and maintain the trail system using volunteers. The Stewards hope to utilize the Sutro Nursery to expand their role in meeting the objectives of a new, comprehensive management plan by promoting native vegetation to increase biodiversity.

The full presentation of the meeting can be found at: <https://www.ucsf.edu/cgr/cgr-projects/mount-sutro-open-space-reserve>.

—Lena Emmery

Cole-Carl Building May Get Reprieve from Shutdown

New laws regarding the seismic retrofit of “soft story” buildings with five or more units have caused a disruption in Cole Valley’s small businesses. Tantrum has had to relocate temporarily to Clement Street but they plan to return when construction is completed in late summer. Urban Mercantile is closing—maybe this month—for



Three Cole Valley businesses hope to remain open during retrofit.

2-6 months, although according to owner Bradley Burch, online orders are still coming in. We don’t have information about Viera & Friends, Peet’s or Mad Kat but they are on the short list for future mandatory upgrades. A permit has been filed for La Boulangerie’s building but we don’t know when the work will be done. We’ll post it on our website when we have updates. Go to cviasf.org/news.

When we asked Bill Mainzer, owner of the large corner structure at Cole and Carl about the status of his building (with ground floor tenants Padrecito, Mane Attraction and Lavande) he replied in an email:

“The requirements of the City are quite stringent. Our first engineers provided us with plans that would have required all the commercial tenants to close while work was being done. This would be devastating to have the tenants close their businesses in order to do the seismic work. The restaurant would have the possibility of losing their staff who need the jobs.

“We have employed another engineering firm at considerate expense who has been able to find another method to do the seismic upgrades with almost no work to be done in the tenant’s spaces. There will be some work required inside, but the majority of the work will be done on the exterior. By doing the work this way, the tenants should be able to stay ‘in business’ while work is being done. That said, the plans have now been submitted to the city’s Building Department for approval and building permit. Once approved, we will start work at a time that is the least disruptive to our tenants. I believe that may be right after the first of next January 2017.”

—Joan Downey

**The 39th Annual
Haight Street Fair
is Sunday, June 12**

Postscripts

The Chronicle’s Matier and Ross recently revealed that former District 5 supervisor and sheriff, **Ross Mirkarimi** is now working as a consultant for the country of Uruguay in its effort to legalize medical cannabis, as he did in San Francisco. This is one of several endeavors of his newly established firm, RMir Pro Civic Consulting (doesn’t exactly slip off the tongue), which is specializing in public policy enforcement. Private enterprise is something new for Mirkarimi, who was in city government for 22 years. (FYI: There is an existing NGO simply called Civicus, which describes itself as being “dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world.” Cousins?)



If a **GoHealth Urgent Care** facility is coming to the Cole Garage space, we haven’t seen any movement for construction on the property. It is the same cavernous space, albeit with expensive infrastructure upgrades.

Club Deluxe at Haight and Ashbury is a neighborhood gem. A charming retro bar, generous drinks and fabulous pizza are basic, but you go for the free entertainment—almost unheard of in a



city our size. Jazz combos and comedy are somewhat loosely scheduled so go to their Facebook page for the updates. **Amy Stephenson** (Hoodline.com) recently quoted producer/comedian **Jane Harrison** as saying, “My takeaway would be to come see live comedy in the city because people are

slipping away to L.A. every day, and you can see them now for free when they’re gonna be charging \$80 in five years.”

Jerry Emerson, the affable co-owner of **Cole Valley Antiques** (90 Parnassus), asked that everyone calm down. He is not closing the shop. Rather, his long-time business partner **Angie Pettitt-Taylor** has decided to move her part of the inventory to Past Perfect, the collective at 854 Stanyan, which offers a more eclectic range of stock. Cole Valley Antiques has now been rechristened “**Jerome’s Antiques**” and lets Jerry specialize in the vintage merchandise—china, glass, paintings and affordable decorating touches that he does so well.



Haight Street Gelato opened a few days ago (1782 Haight), but, get this, without a business license. When you think of the rent the owners are paying and the money they've invested to fit it out for ice cream making, it boggles the mind that such a relatively simple step would be overlooked. It is currently "under review" by the planning department, but, hey, that's not stopping them from filling those cones. The product comes from Gelato Classico but there must have been a power outage somewhere along the line because the texture of my scoop was rough and icy.

In spite of our objection, **Rec and Park Commission** decided to pave the way for the **Deltas** pro soccer team to use Kezar Stadium as their home base. Since the deal comes with many upgrades to the stadium facility, the major objection was the necessity of alcohol sales. Even the hard stuff. Sure, Rec and Park tweaked the agreement in favor of more control (such as a separate alcohol permit for each game) and in the end it was approved. Bygones being bygones, the only thing left to say is, "Go Deltas!"



If you know any kids that want to play ball games with cops, there is the new "Sandlot" program offered by SFPD and the Police Activities League (PAL). Children can play a variety of games such as kickball, basketball, soccer, baseball and flag football with police officers and police cadets. Address questions to Officer **JoAnn Walker** at joann.walker@sfgov.org or call 415-401-4666.

The Cole Valley Improvement Association will turn 30 years old next year. We still hear occasionally from our founder, **Alan Merbaum**, who for years has worked as an aviation and aerospace expert in Israel. We've come a long way since a drugged-out man entered his Cole Street home through the open door while his wife was securing their children in the back seat of their car parked in the driveway. (Oh, wait. Maybe things haven't changed that much. See the article on page 1.)

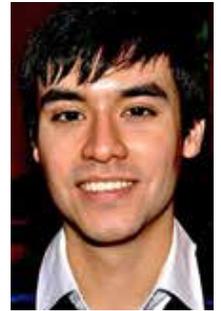


Temporary permits are available for residents of **Residential Parking Permit** areas for one day use for rental cars or visitors. The current cost of a one day pass ranges from \$9-\$13 for each permit depending on the number purchased. Starting in July, that price will be lowered to \$5.



Want to know the streets the **commuter shuttle buses** are allowed to travel on and where their legal stops are? You'll find it buried in the SFMTA website (google "sfmta commuter shuttle program," or go to cviasf.org/News). If you see a shuttle on an unauthorized street or stop, take a picture that shows the license plate and report it to 311 or email Carli.Paine@sfmta.com.

Waller Center manager **Kenneth Schoon** sent us an update on their ongoing beautification project of the former Hamilton Methodist Church. Armed with a team of AmeriCorps volunteers, they trimmed the maple and eucalyptus trees along Belvedere and Waller streets, mulched the tree wells, weeded the parking lot. In a letter to CVIA, he thanked us for our contribution, which helped him purchase a tree trimmer, mulch, potting soil and plants.



In spite of zoning variances and design modifications due to neighbors' concerns over its size, 209 Grattan is here to stay.



Photo: Edward C. Walls

—Karen Crommie

Setting the Record Straight.

We love the folks at **Hoodline.com**, who consistently report interesting and informative articles about the neighborhood, but in a recent article about the proposed parklet in front of American Cyclery (Stanyan and Frederick) they refer to CVIA as an "underwriter" of the project. The fact is that CVIA, in the spirit of community, has offered to be their fiscal sponsor so that contributions are tax deductible but is not supporting it in any other way.

Letters



Dear CVIA,
 I attended the meeting [regarding educational center in a residential garage at 728 Cole Street] and learned that the program will be operating *seven days per week* and will include teaching children about our environment. Sounded like a good idea but I thought your members might have an opinion or questions.

Mary Ann Wolcott

Ed. Note—Sponsor has applied for a permit review meeting.

Dear CVIA

I have been a resident on Belvedere Street since 1973 and have run a preschool in my home since 1990. I am in agreement with those who object to the plans for professional soccer using Kezar Stadium for 40 percent of the weekends a year.

When the rebuilt stadium opened, we were overjoyed to bring the children for the stated “recreational and youth sports” promoted by Rec and Park. We kicked balls on the field, rolled on the hillside grass, ran up and down the steps. After a few glorious years, we were told we couldn’t use the field. We adjusted. We could kick balls on the grassy hillsides and around the perimeter path. Just last week we were told we couldn’t bring balls, even though we were not using them on the field or track. Now we hear that because of plans by Rec and Park, there will be no community use on the weekends for almost half of the year because the stadium will be leased to a professional soccer organization, which also insists that they have to sell alcohol.



I resent that: 1) Rec and Park wants to sell off community recreational spaces to commercial interests because they “need money,” 2) the accumulating restrictions imposed by Rec and Park employees on children using this neighborhood resource. Will they ban children next so drunken fans can have exclusive rights to the grass?

This is one more tear in a safety net that helps people tolerate living in a crowded, but beautiful city of 49 square miles that has added 100,000 people since I first moved here.

Barbara Alexander
 Director, Belvedere Montessori

Help

- Emergency911
- 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
- NextBus311
- Street Lighting.....554-0730

Mayor Edwin M. Lee 554-6141
 City Hall - Room 200
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 S.F., CA 94102

Chief of Police Greg Suhr..... 553-1551
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103

District Attorney George Gascón 553-1741
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
 S.F., CA 94103

Captain John Sanford, Jr 242-3000
 Park District Police Station
 1899 Waller St.
 S.F., CA 94117
 John.Sanford@sfgov.org

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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

Telephone: 554-5184 FAX: 554-5163

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

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 August 1, 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.

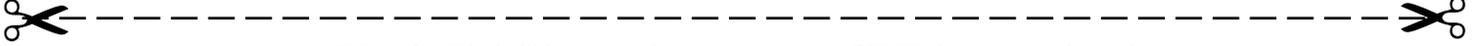
EditorKaren Crommie
 Production.....David Crommie
 Editorial AssistanceJoan Downey

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 _____

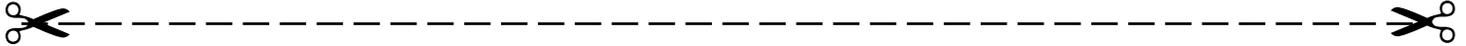
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

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