

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIX

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

WINTER 2016

Santa Comes to Cole Street Sunday, November 27

Come and have your picture taken with Santa without the hassle of driving to the mall or waiting in long lines. AND the proceeds



Photo: Loic Nicolas

Although Santa is pictured here with Clark Hockaday, he's also fond of dogs and cats and, in fact, anyone willing to sit on his lap for a photo.

help fund Clean Cole Street, the project that pays for the sidewalk cleaning of our commercial area every day. Each year we've raised an average of over \$1,000 toward this important project.

Loic Nicolas, a popular photographer with consistent 5-star reviews on Yelp and a CVIA member, came up with this fund-raising idea and donates a day of his time for the good of his neighborhood. His photos are wonderful and he is a delight to watch while he works. We're so fortunate to have Loic as a neighbor and supporter.

As always, Chuck Canepa is our handsome Santa. He even bought his own Santa suit a few years ago and so is fully committed—we hope! Chuck not only looks good, but he's also great with the kids. And, yes, this is the same Chuck who organizes the car show for the Cole Valley Fair and currently serves as CVIA president.

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

Please come by with your kids, grandkids, pets, or yourself on Sunday, November 27 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost of the sitting is \$20 and prints start at \$1, depending on resolution. Digital files are \$15 to \$35. Photos are available within 24 hours. See loicphoto.com/santa for more information. And spread the word!

—Joan Downey

930 Cole: Owner Concedes Sign Size and Pet Tribute

When Dirk Spencer closed his auto repair business at 930 Cole Street, we knew it would present challenges. There was possible toxic cleanup, preservation of the historic façade, the value of the rather tentative exterior decoration portraying deceased neighborhood pets (go figure), but most daunting was the sheer vastness of



Photo: Mike Cohen

The GoHealth-Dignity sign was not well received among Cole Valley neighbors.



Photo: Barry Roth

In response, the building owner quickly shrouded the offending sign.

the interior space, so unlike the adjoining businesses in the small Cole Valley commercial center. To avoid competing with existing



Study Plots Best Course for City's Mentally Ill Offenders

The CVIA Board on November 7 welcomed one of the authors of a new study on the treatment of the city's mentally ill presently in the criminal justice system. Public defender Jennifer K. Johnson, cofounder of the San Francisco Behavioral Health Court is one of a distinguished team of professionals who have made a series of recommendations for care coordination and service delivery in a centralized service center, namely, the Behavioral Health Justice Center (BHJC). Research shows that incarcerating those with mental illness is counterproductive to their rehabilitation, making it more difficult for them to successfully reenter free society. This plan offers an alternative.

Coordinated System

The proposed BHJC ensures public safety by providing mental health services designed to interrupt the cycle of homelessness, addiction, and criminal activity. Central to the concept is a system of a continuum

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businesses by installing a gym or grocery store, the obvious utilizers of such a large space, and to be consistent with neighborhood character, it was clear the building would have to be subdivided.

When the property was purchased by Sausalito developer Pacific American Group (PAG), another problem became apparent. The new tenant, or tenants should not attract additional car traffic to Cole Street. This was the problem with an early applicant (Altschool), which, as we know only too well from Lycée Français and Urban High School, would produce a line of cars dropping off and picking up students. A loud uproar of protest ensued and they backed out. For months the building remained unrented. The owners used the time to bring it up to code for general tenancy.

Then the news burst all at once. Three prospective tenants: GoHealth, an undisclosed yoga studio and a Zazie spin off. During the weeks since then, GoHealth, a retail urgent care facility, has opened, the yoga studio got a name—Urban Sol, and, having second thoughts,



Not only did building owners hire artist Angela Tirrell to repaint the pets on the exterior, they've added new portraits on the wall of the waiting room. Said receptionist, "We've learned this is a neighborhood that loves its pets."

Zazie stepped aside for the "Leenie Rae Boutique." (A Google check on Arlene Rae, owner of the latter business, showed only a women's boutique in Texas.)

So with all three units leased, there only remained the exterior signage. There are no small issues when it comes to Cole Valley. The GoHealth sign, which includes its more prestigious affiliation, Dignity Health, went up a few weeks ago and social media was on fire. Neighbors, one after the other, protested the sign. Quickly Pacific American Group CEO Linda Hothem issued an apology and the sign was shrouded. Soon afterward, Stephanie Deng, Branch Manager for the company wrote, "Community involvement is incredibly important to us, and we look forward to learning more from you. I know some of you may have questions, so feel free to reach us directly at wecare@gohealthuc.com. We apologize for not having this available

—Karen Crommie

Mentally Ill—Continued from Page 1, Column 2.

of mental health care services. Johnson explained that the BHJC would provide "a purposeful, coordinated system of care with different levels of service and appropriate treatment options for individuals with mental illness in the justice system." The BHJC would offer four tiers of service and treatment to address four distinct levels of need.

Continuum of Care in One Building

The proposal describes a 24-hour venue on the first floor for police to bring individuals experiencing a mental health episode for an initial mental health assessment and respite bed; the second floor would provide transitional housing and on-site residential treatment; the third floor would feature long-term residential dual-diagnosis treatment and longer-term intensive residential psychiatric care and substance abuse treatment in an unlocked setting; the fourth floor would offer secure inpatient transitional care, short-term and voluntary inpatient treatment for persons with mental illness transitioning to community-based residential treatment programs.

Hope of Mental Health Reform

Based on best practices models from other parts of the country, Johnson went on to describe the proposed BHJC as a collaborative, independently administered, interagency center designed to 1) bridge the current divide between the criminal justice system and community based treatment programs for mentally ill individuals, and 2) ensure diversion at the earliest possible opportunity.

Are We Willing to Make the Necessary Changes?

The creation of the BHJC may require legislative and regulatory steps to be taken that, at a minimum, ensure that the individuals who access services through the Center maintain all rights and privileges traditionally afforded in a custodial setting. As a nation, we have recently entered a long-overdue era in which there is unprecedented bipartisan collaboration designed to achieve both criminal justice and mental health reform. As a national leader in the effort to reform both of these systems, San Francisco and is well-positioned to pioneer these important changes. The plan is opposed by the Coalition on Homelessness and other homeless advocacy groups that are wary of any institution that confines the mentally ill. However, most of the plan allows participants



Proposal would unite efforts of treatment programs and the criminal justice system.

freedom to come and go from the Center.

This proposal is currently under scrutiny by City Hall. It's authors are Craig Haney, Ph.D., J.D. Professor of Psychology, University of California, Santa Cruz, Jennifer K. Johnson, J.D. Cofounder of San Francisco Behavioral Health Court, Kathleen Lacey, LCSW Director, UCSF Citywide Case Management Forensic Program, Michael Romano, J.D. Director, Stanford Law School Justice Advocacy Project.

To read the full report with examples of model programs in other states, go to the SF District Attorney website, "Justice That Heals."

SAVE THE AGGRAVATION
Shop Cole Valley and Haight
for holiday gifts. (If you
can't find it here,
they don't need it.)



Golden Gate Park's East End: Problems and Solutions

At a meeting called by the Department of Recreation and Parks on October 19, plans were finally presented to improve the appearance, safety and ecology of the entrance to Golden Gate Park at Stanyan and Haight streets. Among the ideas offered to the group of neighbors gathered at Park Station were 1) removing the raised planted section just inside the entrance thereby creating a plaza 2) adding a walkway parallel to Stanyan 3) turning the closed bathrooms into a visitor center and 4) restoring of the stalactites within the tunnel leading to Sharon Meadow.

The project has identified \$2.5 million from the 2012 Parks Bond funds but this is not enough to fulfill all the changes needed. This was the first of three proposed planning meetings. Two more will be scheduled before the end of the year. Although bringing more activities to the small area is generally considered to be a solution to its current function as a hangout for indigent youth and drug dealers, community members were wary of establishing services within the area that compete with small businesses on Stanyan such as bike rentals and refreshments.

There's no denying that we've had a spate of crimes in the area in recent months. First there was a stabbing at McDonald's, then a shooting at Alvord Lake, followed by robberies of several Haight Street businesses. Then there was the incident the first week of October when a 39 year-old man was brutally attacked and robbed by seven men in Sharon Meadow. If CVIA has your email address, a notice will be sent regarding the next meeting on the future of this problematic part of our neighborhood.

—Karen Crommie

Cole Valley Girl Makes History

Sixteen year-old resident of Cole Valley Claire Dworsky recently made local history by becoming the first female member of the Saint Ignatius High School football team. Claire is on the varsity football team and was a kicker in their October 28 victory over Sacred Heart at Kezar Stadium.

In addition to football, Claire is an avid soccer player on the S.I. varsity girls team, and referees other soccer games. She has just been

Photo: Lena Emmerly



Photo: Deanna Hodgkin

The two faces of Claire Dworsky

selected to join the soccer Olympic Development Program that serves as a pathway to the U.S. Olympic team. Still, she finds time to be an excellent student at Saint Ignatius as she prepares for college.

Claire told Tom Burke in *Catholic San Francisco*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, "I was born in an orphanage in Kazakhstan and had rickets and malnutrition. I was really sick when my parents adopted me and brought me to San Francisco. The orphanage didn't expect me to be able to walk or even to stand. For me, playing sports is a gift from God. I'm grateful every day that I can walk, and kick the ball and enjoy my life."

—Lena Emmerly

Sutro Stewards Give Award to CVIA at Anniversary Bash

It's hard to believe the Sutro Stewards celebrated their tenth anniversary this month. This group of dedicated individuals, headed by Craig Dawson, has transformed Sutro Forest from an inaccessible jungle into the treasured system of trails we all enjoy. The unique partnership between the University of California, the Recreation and Parks Department and the Stewards, founded by Dawson, has brought about this great resource.

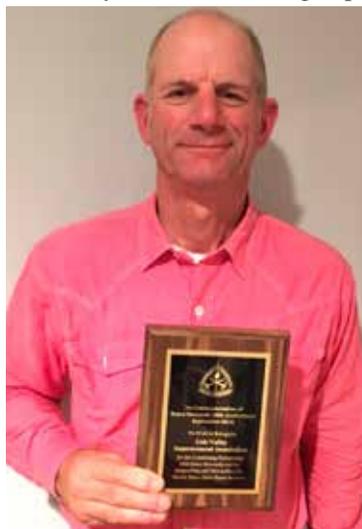


Photo: Lena Emmerly

CVIA President Chuck Canepa accepted the award for the organization.

At a celebration on October 6, awards were given to founding members and ongoing supporters. CVIA president Chuck Canepa accepted an award in recognition of CVIA's longtime support of the Stewards.

Their work now includes a robust native plant nursery with over 180 varieties of plants. They have plant sales a couple of times a year, with all proceeds going to fund the Stewards' restoration work. Even if you don't have room for plants, go take a look so you can be on a first name basis with our local



Photo: Lena Emmerly

Left to right: Trails program manager Dan Bernards presents commemorative awards to Sutro Stewards founding members Craig Dawson, Bob Siegel, Peter Brastow, Jake Sigg, and Ben Pease during the 10th Anniversary celebration.

natives and meet some of the volunteers who make it all happen. Check sutrostewards.org for the next date. Please take a walk in the forest and support this great project in any way you can, but be sure to enjoy it, that is the main goal.

—Lena Emmerly

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





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 September 2015 through October 2016. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

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

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500): *Karen & David Crommie, Hancock Foundation, Bill Mainzer, Craig Newmark, Loic Nicolas, Abby & David Rumsey*

Donors (\$100 - \$249): *Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Gina Centoni, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Diane & Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Rita & Richard Felciano, Tracy Grubbs & Richard Taylor, Marianne Hesse, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Janan New, Michael J. Sullivan,*

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, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Douglas Hall, Carol & Richard Harris, Shannon & Chris Hock, Mary & John Hooper, Ice Cream Bar, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Jim Laufenberg, Bahereh & John Manning, Barbara Mow, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Helen & Allan Ridley, Kendra & Billy Robins, Susan & Steven Rosen, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such*

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): *Molly Barry, Gail & Howard Berman, Judith Bishop, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Vallie Brown, Karin de Brer, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Melissa & Glen Gee, Judy Groves & Kevin Dede, Janet & Mark Hall, Jean Hayward, Gerardo Joffe, Ilya Kaltman & Jack Vogensen, Dennis Martino, Carolyn McKenna, Midline Studios, Olympia & Douglas Montgomery, Robert Page, John Priest, Michael Rafferty, MeMe Riordan, William Rothrum, Serena Unger & Cole Roberts, Deborah Van Atta, Edward C. Walls, Mary Ann Wolcott*

Boosters (\$24 and below): *Anonymous, Sharon Birenbaum, Elizabeth Corden, Ellen Curry, Mary Ann de Sousa, John Greenwood, Susan Hills, Maryann Hrichak, Diane & Bob Silver*

"Lukes Local" Giving Discount

Owner Luke Chappell, soon to move into the corner occupied by Alpha Market for so many years, recently posted: "As we work hard to open the doors at Luke's Local, we want to express our gratitude for your patience and for welcoming us so warmly into the neighborhood. From now until the market opens in early December, please use this code (COLEVALLEY15) for 15 percent off on all Luke's Local grocery deliveries. We hope it will give you a sense of what's to come. Go to <http://lukeslocal.com/>. And we are now offering designated pick-up times on Tuesday November 22 through Thursday November 24 for Thanksgiving orders." Check the website above for details

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 (former Cole Garage)

Park District Police Officer Receives National Recognition

Park District Station Officer JoAnn Walker on October 6 received the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing for field operations in Washington DC. Over her 21 years of service on the force, she has volunteered for extensive training on hostage negotiation, crisis counseling, and suicide prevention, dedicating her own time and resources to advance her expertise and educate her colleagues in crisis service support.

Interim SFPD Chief Toney Chaplin said, "Officer Walker exemplifies the very best of our department. Her commitment to the well-being



U.S. Attorney Brian Stretch, Park Police District Officer Joann Walker and Interim Police Chief Toney Chaplin at the award ceremony.

of community members goes above and beyond her daily duties as an officer. Now more than ever, her skills are invaluable as we strive to help our communities in crisis." To which Officer Walker replied, "Words can't describe how it makes me feel to be recognized at this level."

CONGRATULATIONS TO LONDON BREED ON HER REELECTION TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPRESENTING DISTRICT 5

Plan to “Tart Up” Haight Re-futed by Community Leader

Many of you received the mailing from DPW showing the results of the “poll” they conducted about the plans to update Haight Street. The voting occurred over the summer, and the results were reviewed with the four community groups in the Haight: HAIA, CVIA, HANC and HAMA. At that meeting, held in September, the representatives from DPW were told that there were severe problems with their poll, in that two significant matters were misrepresented.

False Choices—The first was the treatment of the sidewalk, where the photos illustrated a dark grey pavement alongside a light grey sidewalk with “sparkles” added. The latter received more votes than the former. However, DPW admitted that there was no difference in the color of the concrete. As the City presented false exhibits for residents to vote on, they offered a false choice. In fact, nothing should be done about the selection of the sidewalk treatment based upon this fraudulent presentation.

Tacky Designs—Secondly, DPW (as opposed to area residents) came up with suggestions for the treatment of the corner of Haight and Ashbury. Three choices were offered: a plain, textured sidewalk at the



Photo: SFDPW

Without an intervention, the Haight could end up looking like a theme park.

corners with a column (of neo classical design), a textured sidewalk colored with a blue tint to accent the faux tile texture, with a column, and a sidewalk with a mosaic floral pattern (yet to be designed) and a “Victorian Frame Gateway.” This last detail looks like a large, empty mirror frame. The result would be installed on two of the four corners of the famous intersection. Missing was an important fourth choice: none of the above.

Lack of Respect—At the September meeting, DPW was told by all four neighborhood groups that the third option (with the large mirror frame) was not only ugly, but also unnecessary. The corner of Haight and Ashbury is an established destination point for tourists, and the brand does not need to be burnished beyond recognition with still more street furniture. It would only exacerbate the problems of street people lingering at the intersection, with a decline in the quality of life for persons living within a half a block of the already iconic place. Our neighborhood is not a theme park.

Misinterpreting Poll Numbers—The discussion on this also looked at the vote. DPW argued that 43% was the highest vote (but not a majority), and thus would be used in the street plan. After getting the total votes for all categories (Yes, No, and No Opinion), it was pointed out that the 43% positive for option 3 also had the highest negative vote, also 43%, with 14% no opinion. Clearly, the 43% vote for option 3 was

the most divisive choice for the community. Option 2, however, while 28% said yes, 52% said “no opinion.” Option 2 was thus the only item that people either wanted or were willing to accept, thus comprising the only majority vote (by a substantial margin) over the other two.

Take Simple Action—Had there been a “none of the above” choice, to leave the iconic street sign as a lasting testament to the neighborhood’s past, it would have made the vote more meaningful still. What can we do about it? **We can all write an email to Amy Lam, of DPW (amy.lam@sfdpw.org), with a copy to Supervisor Breed, (London.Breed@sfgov.org) to insist that a community “town hall” meeting be held to discuss the Haight Street “Transit Improvement & Pedestrian Realm Project.”** Whether attendees speak or just listen, all will be informed of the pros and cons of what is proposed, and thus be able to cast an informed vote about what will happen to Haight St, and how the millions of taxpayer dollars for the work will be spent. This project started as a plan of the people. It was hijacked by the City and vetted through a manipulative process. We must seize the opportunity to reflect what the community really wants.

—Ted Loewenberg

President, Haight Ashbury Improvement Association

Ed. note: The CVIA Board agrees with the above and encourages you to register your demand for a Town Hall meeting to stop those who seek to trivialize our neighborhood.

Fair Was More Fun than Ever

Even with the thermometer reaching 90 degrees, the Cole Valley Fair on September 25 was a huge success again this year. Unlike the city’s other annual fairs, this one, under the leadership of Erica Kajdasz (Midline and Lavation fitness studios), has managed to stay small and neighborhood-focused with an emphasis on families and locally produced crafts. Over 30 people signed up at the CVIA booth to become members. And the sale of our “Cole and Carl” t-shirts was beyond expectation. After fourteen straight years, many visitors came



Photo: Joan Downey

Of the many neighborhood fairs in San Francisco, the Cole Valley Fair has distinguished itself over the years for its family-friendly vibe.

specifically for the display of classic cars organized by Chuck Canepa while others headed for the annual Cole Valley history exhibit by Jessica Justino. The live music was better than ever as Chris Hock succeeded in signing up a variety of outstanding artists for 30 minute gigs throughout the duration of the Fair.

Abe Saba, beloved owner of Alpha Market was there in his near-empty building on the corner of Cole and Parnassus, receiving fond farewells from longtime customers. Being an election year we also had competing candidates for District 5 supervisor milling in the crowds. Incumbent Supervisor London Breed and challenger Dean Preston pressed the flesh, distributed flyers and smiled as much as they could under the unrelenting sun. Thanks to all those generous people who volunteered to do the scores of jobs, none particularly fun, that resulted in such a enjoyable day for the neighborhood.

—Karen Crommie

Still No Takers for the Carl Hotel

The old Carl Hotel was on the market this summer for \$5,395,000, down from \$5,600,000 a few months earlier. As far as we know it is still



Opportunity is still knocking to join the hospitality industry without leaving the 'hood.

up for grabs. The listing reads as follows: 198 Carl Street is located at the intersection of Stanyan and Carl streets only one block away from Golden Gate Park, in the fabled Haight Ashbury District. The building consists of 27 very small bedrooms, all but six with baths and one office. This is a unique opportunity for investors to acquire an asset with tremendous potential offered at a low gross

rent multiplier (GRM) of 11 percent, and a low unit price of \$192,679.

Panhandle Volunteers Encouraged as Project Moves Forward

Phase II of the Panhandle Park Project has begun. This includes installation of benches, bike racks, trash cans, north path ground markings and posted signs. The work will take approximately two months.

Phase II also includes the playground project which is fully funded by the 2012 Parks Bond. As soon as a landscape architect is assigned and a design determined, community meetings will immediately follow.

The MTA has budgeted \$705,000 for studying/implementing improvements at the Panhandle's entrance and exits. Namely Baker, Shrader and Stanyan streets. They have also completed a feasibility



This vital strip of greenspace continues to be a multi-use resource for all ages.

study of having protected bike lanes on Fell and Oak streets at a cost of between \$1.6 and \$4 million to install.

A group calling itself Friends of the Panhandle is officially forming. Their first fundraising campaign will be bench donor plaques. If you're interested in joining or want to be on the email list to receive news of their progress, updates or want to donate, please email me at westnopa@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 24 at John Adams CCSF, 1860 Hayes St., Room 139. I hope to see you there!

—Tricia Stauber, Panhandle Resident Organization/SF

A big Thank You to the Belvedere Street residents who, once again, generously invested their time, money and creativity to make Halloween night a truly memorable event for our children.

Thanks to Booksmith, There's a Third Act for The Red Vic

It's no secret that Booksmith has slowly become much more than a bookstore. Their innovative, book-based social events continue to grow in popularity, making it a central, if sometimes over-crowded, meeting



The Second Act Marketplace was the dream of Betsy and Jack Rix.

place for Haight neighbors. In that light, it did not come as a complete surprise to learn that Booksmith had decided to lease the vendor booths and performance space at the recently closed Second Act Marketplace (1727 Haight Street). Renamed "The Bindery," it opened on November 1 and is described on the Booksmith website as "a winter literary wonderland." Owner Christin Evans and her team of charming, literate young people, plan to offer "a full array of offbeat, quirky, artistic gifts for children and adults—including, of course, books—as well as a dedicated space for literary and cultural events."

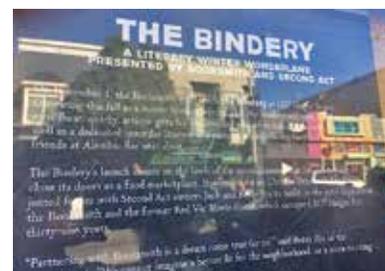
When the Red Vic movie house went out of business in 2011, Jack and Betsy Rix, part of the dedicated consortium that kept the repertory cinema going for many years on a shoestring, the building went dark. Then the Rixes decided to take an enormous financial gamble that a small market place with a variety of food concessions and a performance

space would not only give opportunities to small entrepreneurs and artists, but also justify the total reconfiguration of the building. Second Act Marketplace offered the old Red Vic movie house a second life on Haight Street. It also gave Alembic, the successful "destination" bar and restaurant, an opportunity to



Each booth space features a different category of merchandise.

expand its dining space. But the marketplace area was breaking new ground. With five stalls of 100 square feet each, the businesses didn't have an established customer base so, after a promising start, and some remarkably creative vendors, sales were not enough to keep the artisan providers in business. One by one, they closed. While the 49-seat



After Christmas The Bindery will briefly close for a reconfiguration of its interior.

performance space has been sporadically active, offering live acts, films and music, it, too, could not generate the income necessary to keep the enterprise afloat.

Enter Christin Evans and the Booksmith. Former techies, she and her husband Praveen Madan, bought Booksmith in 2007 and began, against all trends, to widen its function and reinvent what could be done with a community of readers. A few years after taking over the Haight Street store, the couple purchased the iconic Palo Alto bookstore Kepler's. In 2008 with a third partner, they helped launch Berkeley Arts & Letters, now the East Bay's most successful author series.

Events currently scheduled in the Second Act performance space will continue through the end of the year under Booksmith's manage

ment, with beer and wine for sale courtesy of Alembic bar. Said Betsy Rix, “Partnering with Booksmith is a dream come true for us and we cannot imagine a better fit for the neighborhood, or a more exciting use for the space.”

Evans plans to keep the retail storefront at 1727 Haight open from 11-7 daily through the end of the year, perfect for the Christmas season. In January, The Bindery will close for a custom build-out.

—Karen Crommie

Gathering of Grays*

The Haight Seniors Group, which is holding with that name until the members can agree on another, is continuing to grow under the leadership of Cosi Pavalko and Christin Evans and with the support of Park Branch head librarian Ann Lane. The first meeting in August, which drew a modest eight people, increased to twenty-four in September and even more in October. It started when Pavalko realized that, as other neighborhoods had city-sponsored Senior Centers, the Haight was bereft.



Group organizer Cosi Pavalko and friend.

It is clear from the introductions and scope of interests that this is no ordinary group of people. To a man and woman, they are sophisticated citizens of the world, deeply involved both in national issues and the immediate challenges of slowing down in a neighborhood where the average age is thirty years.

The only program the group has organized so far is an every-first-Tuesday “Conversation, Creativity & Chess” session from 2:30 to 4:30 in the community room of the Park Branch Library. This is a time to join together to pursue art projects, games, and whatever, in the company of older neighbors. For more information write to Haightashbury seniors@gmail.com or, better still, just show up.

—Karen Crommie

*With apologies to poet Jeffrey Philip Clegg

Tired of Trash on Your Street?

Thanks to CVIA members, the Cole Street commercial corridor is swept twice a day, every day. But chances are, you don’t live on those three blocks of Cole Street. Yesterday, as I was walking up Ashbury enroute to Tank Hill, I spied a tall, slender woman with a floppy hat holding a plastic bag and a trash picker. Turns out it was Vallie Brown, special assistant to Supervisor London Breed, who moved into our neighborhood last year. She said she had joined the city’s Adopt-A-Street Program and this was her territory. I couldn’t help being impressed and looked into it further. I learned that groups or individuals can agree to adopt an area and take responsibility for keeping the street, sidewalk, and storm drain clean. In return DPW provides free street cleaning supplies and litter bags. When you’ve finished tidying your agreed-upon area, simply call 311 and tell them the corner at which you have left the bags.



To participate, call 311 or email : volunteer@sfdpw.org.

—Karen Crommie

Improved Path Lighting Installed in Cole Valley Park

For years CVIA has asked the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to install better lighting in Richard Gamble Memorial Park, the small park leading from the N-Judah stop at Cole and Carl Streets to Clayton Street. In the last newsletter we reported that we had unexpectedly received a letter from Jay Lu, Public Relations Officer for SFMTA, telling us about the plan for lighting improvements in the park.

On Wednesday, September 28, SFMTA employees involved in the project met with sixteen Cole Valley residents to show and explain



Neighbors gathered for a demonstration of newly installed LED units equipped with louvres to direct light onto pathway and away from houses.

the improved features of the new LED light fixtures in the park. Community members, some of whom live around the park, met with Jay Lu, Tess Kavanagh (Project Manager, Sunset Tunnel), Steve Shih (Manager, Maintenance of Way) and Steven Russel and Alan DellaMaggiora, the electricians who installed the lighting.

Steve Shih and the SFMTA electricians explained the technology behind the lighting. A shield resembling a grid, officially known as a “house-side shield,” covers each LED light. The house-side shield can be adjusted to change the brightness and the direction of the light. This results in illuminating the desired area, while shielding other spaces that don’t need to be lit. The location of the light fixture on the pole, the brightness and the angle of the light make the difference.

If a lightpost is located beside a house, for example, the light fixture is placed lower on the pole in order to light the path, but not the house. As we toured the park, we saw these elements come together to create a more focused light that illuminates the park path, without negatively impacting the surrounding neighbors.

There will be five new lights in the park, two at the top near Clayton, one in the center of the park and two closer to the N-Judah stop. The lights have a 780-hour wearing-in period so they will become slightly dimmer over a period of two months. According to Jay Lu, “Following the positive feedback from members of the community, including Supervisor Breed’s office, installation of the lights started on Monday, October 3.” By the time you receive this newsletter, the project will have been completed.

We want to thank the SFMTA for listening to and acting upon CVIA requests for improved lighting in the Richard Gamble Memorial Park, and we hope these changes will make the park feel safer and more welcoming at night. If you have any concerns about park lighting, or street lighting in general, please contact the SFPUC, Street Lights Division.

—Cathy Haller

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.

September

Location: Kezar Bar and Restaurant—August 27, 2016

Because so few board members could meet in the month of September, an abbreviated meeting was called to order immediately after the Summer Social at 4:00 p.m. Board welcomed CVIA member Mary Ann Wolcott.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey asked to postpone this month's treasurer's report because the bank statements had not yet arrived.

■ In lieu of reading the minutes of the last meeting, recording secretary Karen Crommie referred members to the email report and also the account printed in the Fall newsletter.

■ Community Relations Chair Amy Blakeley gave a review of the visits to the CVIA website and said she would send out an email blast regarding the Lavation discount for CVIA members. We discussed a possible High Intensity fitness class for seniors as an idea that should be pursued with owners, Jay, Erica and Mien.

■ Lena Emmery, Kezar Advisory Committee member, said that when she reported neighborhood complaints about continuous loud drumming at a recent soccer game, Rec and Park told her that "drumming is a part of soccer," but said they would try to reduce the sound level. She pointed out that this was not the action of the professional soccer team now headquartered at Kezar but rather a non-San Francisco high school team.

■ In her review of the last CPAB meeting, Lena also reported on the success of the SFPD's National Night Out on August 3. Park Station's event drew hundreds of people to Duboce Park to eat, drink, meet neighbors and hang out with cops. Lena represented CVIA by donating home-baked cookies and operating sales of Park Station's distinctive t-shirts designed by Officer Lily Prillinger.

■ Karen Crommie gave a brief summary of recent CSFN positions on upcoming ballot measures, noting the group's approval of most propositions, even though they involved additional spending, limiting the power of the mayor and ratcheting up restrictions on property ownership.

■ President Chuck Canepa reported on the meeting of the UCSF Long Range Development Plan Citizens Advisory Group, where there was some concern expressed over UCSF's expansion in the Western Addition, recently renting space in a new building at Bush and Divisadero. In the meantime, he reported that the LRDP's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has released a draft management plan for the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve aimed at restoring the health of its trees following years of drought and pest infestation in order to protect the safety of its community and neighbors.

■ Agreed that Amy Blakeley and Cathy Haller will be responsible for withdrawing a selection of sizes of the "Cole and Carl" t-shirts (designed by Carole Glosenger) from the stock presently sold at Postal Chase and get them to the CVIA fair booth for sale at the same price. They will inventory product both removed and returned and give a copy to the treasurer.

■ Agreed that CVIA will happily support (financially, publicizing, attending) any neighborhood party formed to honor Abe Saba, but will not host it.

■ Chuck Canepa confirmed the advancement of the Muni Park path lighting project. So far no objections have been sent to CVIA, with exception of those of Vallie Brown, which have been noted.

■ The date for Santa on Cole photo-op and fundraiser was confirmed for Sunday, November 27.

Adjourned 4:45 p.m.

October

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa—October 3, 2016

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$19,182.80 out of which \$4,938.38 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$220 is being held in the Stanyan Parklet fund (we are fiscal sponsors). She also noted that 35 new members had signed up in the month of September. "Cole-Carl" t-shirt sales at the Cole Valley Fair garnered \$460.

■ In her review of the last CPAB meeting, Lena Emmery reported that Captain Sanford of Park Station is planning to stage a "haunted house" at the station house on Halloween. He is looking for volunteers and contributions. He is also making plans for a celebration on Police Appreciation Day, January 9, 2017.

■ In her report on the last CSFN meeting, Karen Crommie asked that the Board advise her on a resolution coming before that organization in November.

■ There was a discussion (lessons learned) on our participation in this year's Cole Valley Fair. In response to a request by president Chuck Canepa, Joan presented a profit/loss analysis of our Fair participation (supporter, booth holder) showing that CVIA had a net loss of \$300. Agreed that it was a good investment in the Cole Valley community.

■ Plans for future t-shirt sales are as follows: what remains of the 80 shirts withdrawn from Postal Chase for the fair should be divided between them and Cole Hardware, who also agreed to sell them. All shirts sold by the two stores should be the "District T" short-sleeved model, to make it as easy as possible for merchant inventory.

■ Cathy Haller reported on the recent meeting with SFMTA staff and Rosie Dilger from Supervisor Breed's office to demonstrate to surrounding neighbors the enhanced lighting on the Muni Park (Richard Gamble Memorial Park) at the west end of the Sunset Tunnel. (See article on page 7.)

■ Several Board members described the recent debate between Supervisor London Breed and contender Dean Preston held at UCSF on September 28. It was not as well attended as the prior one held earlier in the month at Saint Mary's Cathedral.

■ Lena Emmery confirmed permission from Maryo Mogannam to hold "Santa on Cole" at Postal Chase on Sunday, November 27, one week earlier than usual. Shifts will be set up closer to the event. Lena and Karen will erect the tree and trim it on November 17.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

November

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger—November 7, 2016

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$18,908.13 out of which \$4,174.83 is being held in the Clean Cole account and \$1,004 is being held in the Stanyan Parklet Fund (as fiscal sponsors).

■ Amy Blakely reported on last month's internet activity both on the CVIA website and Facebook. She noted that there was particular interest in CVIA's recent award from the Sutro Stewards, Halloween festivities in Cole Valley and the Santa on Cole photo-op.

■ Karen Crommie reported on the October meeting of the CSFN, the

members of which voted on an emergency motion to oppose the current plan to develop Piers 27, 29, 31 into commercial spaces (mall) because it does not comply with the Waterfront Plan, which confines the space to “mixed use recreation.” She asked and received a unanimous vote from the Board urging the SFMTA to postpone approving the proposed changes in Residential Parking Permit regulations until they could be reviewed and evaluated. Also to oppose approval of changes to the Urban Design guidelines until it could be determined exactly how it would affect residential neighborhoods.

■ Lena Emmery reported that the last C-PAB meeting at Park Station concerned the need to raise funds to purchase bikes for winners of an essay competition among Park District schools. Captain Sanford also urged members to ask merchants to contribute refreshments for the Police Appreciation Day celebration on January 9.

■ Working alongside Joan Downey, Cathy Haller announced the distribution of Santa on Cole Posters and postcards to Cole Valley merchants.

■ Heard a presentation by Jennifer K. Johnson, from the SF Public Defender’s office, describing the results of a study seeking alternatives to incarceration for the city’s mentally ill offenders and asking for CVIA’s support, which she received. (See page 1 for the report.)

■ Decided that a limited supply of CVIA’s popular “Cole & Carl Street” t-shirts would be available for sale at the Santa on Cole event. Those wanting a wider choice of sizes would be referred to Postal Chase, which carries the full line.

■ Recognized the generosity of CVIA members Tracy and Patrick Jennings who, for the second time, have donated \$1,000 to the organization. Adjourned 9:45 p.m.

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

Buying a Home in Cole Valley in 1974 Took a Leap of Faith

My husband and I were in love with San Francisco’s beautiful old buildings and we wanted to buy a Victorian house to restore. Our budget was \$25,000. Even back in 1974 it was a stretch to find a building for that price. Most everything we viewed was at least \$35,000. We had a friend who was a real estate agent. He told me to look for a building and he would show it to us.



Nobody wanted it... but us.

I found a listing on Beulah Street in what was then called the Western Addition or Haight Ashbury. We walked in the front door and gasped. I rolled down the cuffs on my jeans because I was afraid bugs would jump in and come home with me.

There were old tires in the front hall. The mantle was removed from the front parlor fireplace and replaced with a huge mirror. We later found most of the mantle

in the basement. There were four refrigerators in the kitchen and vats of grease still on the stove.

In the first floor back bedroom, one wall was wet. We had no idea why. The ceiling fixtures were fluorescent circles with “no-pest” strips hanging down. People died in this house—probably from the nerve gas in the “no-pest” strips. The middle parlor seemed to be a communal

closet. Poles were hung lengthwise in the room and all the walls were covered with stained wallpaper.

While we were touring the first floor, an old man appeared at the top of the stairs. He was white as a sheet with a thick mop of white hair. He looked strange and we realized later he had no wrinkles at all. When we went into his bedroom upstairs, there were at least fifty bottles of vitamins on the dresser.

Navigating the stairway to the second floor was a challenge. There were several layers of carpeting topped off by a layer of plastic nailed down with 3 inch nails. Later, we found that the wiring from the various doorbells was threaded through the carpeting along with bits of corn and peas. We had to step up with our feet sideways because of the thickness of the carpet layers.

There were three actual bedrooms but the middle room was divided into two rooms. The smaller part having a communal sink. Water pipes were traveling across the wall from the bathroom to the little sink room. I don’t remember a drain. There was also a sink in the master bedroom. They really made use of the water pipes from the bathroom. Small kitchen sinks grew in every direction.

The house needed a new roof, new wiring, new plumbing and a new furnace. “We’ll take it,” we heard ourselves saying.

The house was in probate. We had to put down a good faith deposit and then in court, make an offer. It was possible that our good faith money would not be returned if we lost the bid. We were very nervous at the court bidding. Properties ahead of us went into bidding wars and sold for way over the minimum price. We bid what we thought was high \$24,500. There was only one other bid (\$17,500) from a contractor. No one else wanted this house. It was too scary. We were now home owners. The house was sold “As Is” with no contingencies for anything. We had our work cut out for us.

We needed financing. Our realtor told us that the neighborhood was “redlined.” He went through eight lenders before one would agree to give us a loan. And, that was only after we promised to find another loan somewhere—they didn’t want to know where—and swear that we would upgrade the plumbing and wiring and install a furnace immediately. Our realtor vouched for us and put his mother up for collateral. The “secret” loan was for \$10,000 at 10 percent interest. With that money we were able to do the plumbing, wiring, furnace and a roof repair.

The house was too horrible to move into right away so we stayed with friends in the neighborhood for two weeks until we cleaned it out. The four refrigerators were lined up on one wall of the kitchen. They were different heights and someone had painted around them so when they were removed, the wall looked like some kind of cityscape.

We ordered a large dumpster and started hauling out all the creepy stuff left behind. The basement looked like the killer’s in Silence of the Lambs. However, we did find the fireplace mantel and a few other things we kept. The dumpster was almost full and we were worried that overnight, people would fill it to the brim and we would have no room for the last of the trash. We stayed up as late as we could and guarded the dumpster. Finally, in the middle of the night, we went to bed. When we awoke the next morning, we looked out the window to check on it. We could see people from the shoulders on up, walking around in the dumpster. It was almost empty.

It took a couple of years to do the basic painting and fixing. We worked every evening and weekend for years to restore the house. We replaced ceiling medallions, remodeled the kitchen and bathrooms and replaced Victorian details that were lost or damaged over the years.

It took about 20 years to do everything else because we did a lot of work ourselves. But now, we have a nice house worth a bit more than we paid in 1974. The only vestige of its prior life is the occasional sighting of a ghost by my son and a friend.

—Carole Glosenger

Postscripts

GOING: C.W. Nevius the SF Chronicle's neighborhood reporter (after eight years), **GONE:** Steve and Gail Wilson from **Looking Glass Collage** on Haight Street (after 45 years), **GONE:** Calvin Welch from the **Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council Board** (after some 40 years). **GONE:** Funky Door Yoga (high temperature style) from Waller Street (after 10 years).



C. W. Nevius

* * *

Some say that the new bright red neon sign at the entrance to the **Sunset Tunnel** on Carl near Cole is too bright. But, hey, just last month another drunk tried to drive through it, stopping Muni trains. (Admittedly that



Muni driver is confronted by car in tunnel.

occurred after the sign had been installed, but . . . still.) Another car tried the same thing in January and twice before that.

* * *

Ex-**Bay Guardian** editor **Tim Redmond** foresees the power balance on the Board of Supervisors come January. He figures that voting with the progressives will be **Sandra Lee Fewer** (new: D-1), **Aaron Peskin** (D-3), **Norman Yee** (D-7), **Jane Kim** (D-6), and **Hillary Ronen** (new: D-9). On the side of the moderates, who are generally thought to back the mayor's agenda, he names **Mark Farrell** (D-2), **Katy Tang** (D-4), **London Breed** (D-5), **Malia Cohen** (10), **Ahsha Safai** (new: D-11) and, of course, whomever the Mayor appoints to replace **Scott Weiner** in D-8, who is headed for the State Senate. That means that, assuming the supes vote in a block, the moderates have the majority. However, on legislation requiring a supermajority (2/3rds vote) they will have to form alliances.

* * *

At the last Community Forum at Park Station, **Hoodline's Walter Thompson** reported that **Captain Sanford** has become aware that homes under renovation are being used as illegal encampments. On October 10, police arrested an individual for trespassing on a Waller Street construction site. He was later found to be an unregistered sex offender. Thompson quoted Sanford as saying, "I get the feeling that . . . thieves in the district are targeting construction sites, because they know people are not paying a lot of attention."

* * *

Like **Howard Beale** in the movie "**Network**," who was "mad as hell and not going to take this any more," there is a group of bike riders calling

themselves **San Francisco Transformation** (SFMTrA) who have had it with fatal accidents and close calls with cars and trucks strafing them in the city's bike lanes. At their own expense they decided to place soft upright markers on Fell Street along the Panhandle and elsewhere to protect riders from cars. On their latest Twitter post, they say that they can be found "...at the Crossover Drive crosswalk in Golden Gate Park,



Photo: Nicassio Nakamine

Guerrilla cyclists have installed their own safety markers.

the dedicated bike lane on the Wiggle at Scott and Fell, that pesky stretch of Folsom at Division, and the Geary and Leavenworth crosswalks." The completed work, done without city expenditure or approval, has been disclosed in late-night and early morning tweets. In the meantime, the City has stopped removing the renegade poles, saying that they can stay until SFMTA can install their own.

* * *

The Booksmith was recently designated one of the city's first "legacy" businesses. This was not sought after by owners **Christin Evans** and **Praveen Madan**, who couldn't have been more surprised. The concept of Legacy Businesses comes from last year's Prop J, which seeks to



Photo: Booksmith/Facebook

Founding owner, Gary Frank with present co-owner Christin Evans at the Booksmith's Fortieth Anniversary party

preserve neighborhood-serving establishments over 30 years old. It gives owners of these properties an annual grant of \$4.50 per square foot if they agree to a 10 year extension on the lease. The business owner, too, gets a \$500 per year grant for each employee. (And we wonder why the \$9 billion annual city budget is more than the whole state of Nevada, with three times the number of people.)

* * *

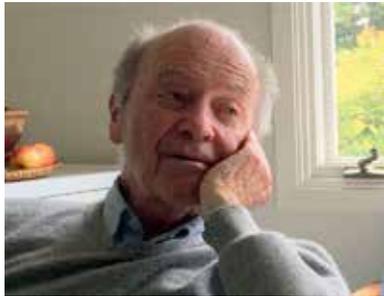
Board member **Lena Emmery** emailed that the Park Station officers' break room is in dire need of an upgrade. In response, the CVIA Board agreed to donate \$100 to the cause. Midtown Terrace, also within the

Park District, donated some appliances they had in their clubhouse. All this is in preparation for **Police Officers Appreciation Day** on January 9, 2017, which will be here sooner than you think.

* * *

The **Friends of the San Francisco Public Library** will repeat their huge used comic book sale later this month. On Saturday, November 19, they're opening the doors to the Book Donation Center at 1630-17th Street in the Potrero neighborhood from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The warehouse will be filled with thousands of comic books for only 25 cents a pop. In addition to the comic books (for all ages, in all genres) the sale will feature Sci-Fi, tv and film glossy magazines.

* * *



Agar Jaicks

The city's **Democratic Party** aristocracy mourned the death of Cole Valley's **Agar Jaicks** on October 25 at the age of 93. Agar worked for four decades at KGO TV, volunteered at the Hamilton Family Shelter and ran for supervisor in 2000. The *SF Chronicle's* **Steve Rubenstein** wrote, "Shortly before he died,

Mr. Jaicks with characteristic resolve filled out his absentee ballot for the November election and made sure it was dispatched to the mailbox."

—Karen Crommie

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 February 1, 2017 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.

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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.

Help

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

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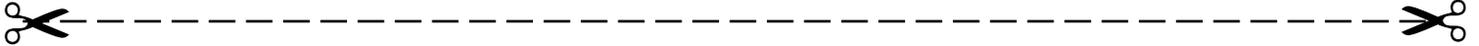
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

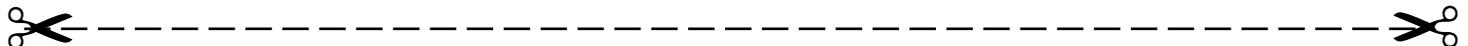
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

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

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



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

