

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

WINTER 2017

Santa Comes to Cole Street Sunday, December 3

Come and have your picture taken with Santa without the hassle of driving to the mall or waiting in long lines AND the proceeds help fund **Clean Cole Street**, the project that pays for the sidewalk cleaning of our commercial area every day. Last year we raised over \$2,600.

Loic Nicolas, a popular photographer with consistent 5-star reviews on Yelp and a CVIA member, came up with this fund-raising idea nine years ago and donates a day of his time for the good of his neighborhood. His photos are wonderful and he is a delight



Photo: Loic Nicolas

Santa is pictured here with Cole Valley's Victor and Madelin Jennings, along with their dogs S'mores and Snowball.

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.

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 those in distress sometimes make the best photos).

Please come by with your kids, grand kids, pets, or yourself on Sunday, December 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost of the sitting is \$20 and prints start at \$1. Digital files are \$15 to \$35 depending on resolution. Photos are available within 24 hours. See loicphoto.com/santa for more information. And spread the word!

—Joan Downey

Recycling Just Got a Whole Lot Easier

Recology will now accept plastic bags in the recycling (blue) bin. Bags must be clean and stuffed inside a single plastic bag. There are other changes, too. Go to www.recology.com for more information.

Huge Loss for Neighborhood

After the candlelight vigil, after the wake with a thousand people in attendance, after the solemn high mass the following day, after the flowers placed in front of the market had withered, after all of that, the Haight Ashbury is left with this huge emptiness—the place Gus Vardakastanis had in our lives.

Much has been written in the last six weeks about the trajectory of his short life—emigrating from Greece with his father at age 16, return-



Photo: David Crommie

Gus and Georgia Vardakastanis at the 2014 Haight Street Fair. Gus was killed by a hit-and-run driver on September 22, 2017.

ing five years later to marry Georgia and later that year, with his father, opening a small version of Haight Street Market. Four years later they opened Noriega Produce in the Richmond district. In 2011, with sons Dimitri and Bobby, by then part of the business, they doubled the size of the Haight store and transformed it into an upscale market called Gus's.



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Two years later, the family took their biggest gamble—in a developing SOMA neighborhood with limited foot traffic—by establishing the enormous Gus’s Community Market on Harrison at 17th Street.

Fortunately, Gus lived long enough, not only to prosper, but also to spend time on his Sonoma property where he grew wine grapes,



Photo: Karen Crommie

At the dusk vigil in front of Gus’s market the day of his death, Stannous Fluoride spoke movingly about his old friend. When he finished, tears in his eyes, he took a swig of uzo, raised the bottle to the sky and shouted the traditional Greek toast, “Opa!” He is flanked by Massoud Badakhshan (Haight Ashbury Music Center) and Calvin Welch (HANC). The banner above says “Fly High Gus, We Love You.”

planted vegetables and briefly tasted the good life of a gentleman farmer. Blessed by his adoring wife Georgia, whom everyone knows from her days behind the counter, along with his sons, their wives and children, Gus’s life was as rich as anyone could wish for. Nevertheless, most mornings at 2 a.m., he was there in the wholesale produce market, an integral part of the early morning culture of bargaining and buying. It was there, on September 22 that he was struck down by a hit-and-run driver. He was 57 years old.

The amazing thing, especially for those who grieve, is that life goes on. The market is still full of shoppers with overflowing baskets, people still line up for coffee, the noon sandwich rush is as frantic as ever, and the staff still methodically stocks shelves all day. But the old neighborhood has changed its course ever so slightly. We think of others we’ve lost in recent years like Pablo Heising, Bette Mosias, Jay Johnson, Wayne Chan and now Gus. All gone, but never forgotten.

—Karen Crommie



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Send an email to cviasf@aol.com or Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Friday, December 1 from 4 to 8 p.m.

McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park

Three Day Rule for Parked Cars

Vehicles parked in the same location for three consecutive days without being moved are in violation of the 72 hour scofflaw law that is enforced by Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) and SFPD officers. If you notice a vehicle parked for more than three consecutive days in one location, please call 311 or 415-553-0123. DPT or SFPD officers will be dispatched to the location, place a 72 hour notice on the vehicle, and mark the tires with chalk. The vehicle is then monitored for a day or so in case the owner moves it. If the vehicle is not moved, then it will be towed. Either way, the owner will know that they cannot park the vehicle for longer than three days in one parking space on the street.

It is also illegal to camp inside vehicles in unauthorized locations, which is a violation of 97(b) MPC (Infraction). It is also illegal to camp in a camper (house car) between the hours of 10 p.m. through 6 a.m., in violation of 97(a) MPC (Infraction). Please call 415-553-0123 and



Vehicular camping has always been a problem in the Haight.

an SFPD officer will respond to the location and make contact with the individuals camping inside their vehicle. The officers will check on the occupants and advise them that sleeping in their vehicle is prohibited.

In both scenarios, the call-taker will ask for the following information: year, make, model, color, and license plate so the officer responding to the call will be able to locate the appropriate vehicle. Please have that information ready when you call.

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Una Bailey will continue to hold community forums on the third Monday of every month (except December) from 5 to 6:00 p.m. She will give a briefing on upcoming permitted events, review neighborhood criminal activity, and address 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).



November 20, January 15, February 19
Mark Your Calendar!



Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only twelve Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district last 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 November 1, 2016 to November 1, 2017. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

Beacons: (\$1000): Les Silverman and Irv Govan

Benefactors: (\$250 - \$500): Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Karen & David Crommie, Loic Nicolas, Kerith & Tony Pucci

Donors (\$100 - \$249): Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Gina Centoni, Linda Coda, Diane & Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Joan Downey, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Marianne Hesse, Linda C Hothem, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Virginia Joosen, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Eileen Lemus, Janan New, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Sigrid Schafmann, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Michael J. Sullivan, Beth & Rick Thurber

Contributors (\$50 - \$99): Anonymous, Chris Broderick, Elizabeth Corden, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Joelle & Ralph Edler, Rita & Richard Felciano, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Kate Ditzler & Stuart Gasner, Mary & John Hooper, Robin & Richard Hornung, Michelle & Wallace Lim, Bahereh & John Manning, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, John Priest, Robin Ridgeway, Kendra & Billy Robins, Elaine Robinson, Kathe Traynor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, William A. Villaroel, Victoria Zaroff

Supporters (\$25 - \$49): Gail & Howard Berman, Kathleen Bertram, Donna Cooper, Ellen Curry, Kevin Dede, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Deb & Todd Frederick, Melissa & Glen Gee, Carole Glosenger, Lauren Gunderson, Janet & Mark Hall, Jean Hayward, Lynn Kormandy, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Richard Magary, Dennis Martino, Barbara Mow, Thomas Nicoll, Robert Page, Marlie Palmer, Francine M. Prophet, Erik Puknys, Ellen Rashbaum, Helen & Allan Ridley, MeMe Riordan, Marie & Bruce Sampson, Deborah Van Atta, Edward C. Walls, Mary Ann Wolcott, Elsa Rosenberg & David Zuckerman

Boosters (\$24 and below): Anonymous, Molly Barry, Travis Becker, Chris Bunga, Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, Warren Cockrel, Bonnie Fisher & Boris Dramov, Beverley Epstein, Andre Ferrigno, Gloria Galindo, Allison Grass, Minette & Isaac Gutfreund, Sareena Hirani, Maryann Hrichak, Corina Jordan, Jessica Lassere, Margaret Laws, Mary Ann de Sousa, Rita Veideman

Cviasf@aol.com

Please contact us by email if you have an issue to raise, a newsletter article, address change, or an update to your membership information. Send us *your* email address if you want to be notified of upcoming meetings and events of importance to our neighborhood.

A CLEAN COLE STREET



Our Neighborhood Heroes 2017 Merchant Participants

Bambinos, Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Finnegans Wake, Jerome's Antiques, Leenie Rae Boutique, Luke's Local, Pacific American Group, * Padrecito, Postal Chase, TANTRUM.

*Owners of 930 Cole Street (former Cole Garage)

Please Volunteer at Alvord Lake on Saturday November 25 from 9 to Noon

Saturday, November 25 is the fourth Saturday of the month and volunteers are needed to help the gardeners at Alvord Lake in Golden Gate Park.

Connect with this magnificent park and help give back to the community. We begin at 9 a.m. and finish by noon.



Photo: Susan Strolis

Meet at Haight and Stryan Street. Look for the Rec and Park vehicle to determine our location.

Typical gardening tasks include weeding, planting, mulching and clean-up. Many hands make light work, so please consider joining this monthly effort.

Please wear appropriate clothing for working outdoors and prepare for varied weather. The event will occur rain or shine.

Light refreshments will be supplied courtesy of McDonald's.

To commit yourself or a larger group (so there are enough tools on hand), please contact the SFR&P volunteer center at recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org or call 415-831-6330 before 11/21.

Quick Change at Park Station

At the Park Station monthly meeting on October 16, Captain John Sanford announced that, after three years at the station, he had been reassigned. A week later he was replaced by Captain Una Bailey



Photo Courtesy of Missionlocal.org

Outgoing Park Police Captain John Sanford Jr. with replacement Captain Una Bailey at his last community meeting on October 16.

from the Investigations Division for Special Victims. Sanford is headed to the Community Engagement Division, where he will work under Commander David Lazar.

Sanford, who has worked at the SFPD for 33 years and is six months from retirement, began his career as a beat cop walking the Haight Ashbury. Five assignments later, he returned to Park Station. Sanford was distinct from other captains in his belief in communication with the neighborhood. He began the “Meet the Beat” program and promptly responded to every phone call and email. He will be greatly missed.

Small Town Girl Finds Success “Over the Water”

(Article below is reprinted from the West Cork Southern Star newspaper [County Cork, Ireland] September 29, 2016)

A Dunmanway (Ireland) woman has risen to the rank of captain in the San Francisco Police Department – the first Irish female to assume the rank. Una Bailey the daughter of Harry and Ann Bailey of Lakelands, Dunmanway, became the first female Irish-born captain ever, in the San Francisco Police Department, when she was appointed in July [2016].



Photo: Lena Emmery

Captain Una Bailey

Captain Bailey was educated in St. Mary’s National School and later Maria Immaculata Secondary School in Dunmanway. In college, she successfully completed a degree in Applied Science in GMIT Galway and decided to go to San Francisco in the late 80s. She joined the San Francisco Police department in 2001 and worked her way up the ranks very quickly. She was initially promoted to sergeant, then lieutenant and, most recently, captain.

Raising a Child in Cole Valley

We moved into the neighborhood 15 years ago—just a few months before our daughter was born. Looking back, I realize that it really *has* taken a village (and a lot of luck) to raise her.

I remember visiting preschools that ranged from rigid to pure anarchy, feeling unhappy about all our options. Then one day, on a random visit to Grattan Playground, meeting a really nice Mom who told me about Belvedere Montessori which, at that time, parents could only find out about by word of mouth. Belvedere Montessori helped raise our daughter to be a City Kid—she rode MUNI and visited more of SF than her parents did in those years.



The Stone family at Grattan playground in 2005

From there, the SFUSD school lottery process was our next trial, as we learned that just living two blocks from Grattan Elementary did not guarantee a spot at that school. Back then Grattan was only an OK-rated school—so maybe that and luck helped us get in. We joined the school just as the Grattan PTA was making huge strides in adding gardening and computer curriculum, determined to instill grit and community values into the kids. I can’t imagine a more focused, collaborative and inclusive group of parents and teachers. That same PTA helped forge the pathway for Grattan to feed into A.P. Giannini Middle School, from where our daughter then landed a spot at Lowell where she’s now a 10th grader.

So many people of this community have helped us raise our daughter. These days, every so often I see a mommy/baby group at Crepes on Cole and it makes me happy to see our village in action again. Thank you Cole Valley.

—Brenda Stone
Cole Valley mom

Supervisor Breed Defends Injection Centers

It looks like San Francisco is going to be the first city in the United States to open a “Safe Injection Center,” in spite of state and federal law. But, hey, we weren’t deterred in opening medical cannabis clubs or processing marriages for same-sex couples or establishing a needle exchange program (which unfortunately became simply needle distribution).

Supervisor London Breed has championed this cause with full knowledge of the liability risks for the City. The Chronicle’s Rachel Swan quoted Breed as saying, “If (this) means disobeying state and federal laws, so be it.” Maybe she was influenced by a report published last year in the Journal of Drug Issues estimating that San Francisco had 22,500 injection drug users—meaning they comprise about 2.6 percent of the city’s population.



Supervisor London Breed

Supervisor Campos, too, was very positive about the program after visiting an injection center in Vancouver last year. Canada’s injection program has been in progress for ten years and is regarded as successful in saving lives and intervening when the addict showed a willingness to seek help. On a state level, Senator Scott Weiner in January will reintroduce a bill to legalize the centers.

—Karen Crommie

Visit our website at CVIASF.org

Residential Hotel Gets New Life as Supportive Housing

The historic private hospital on the corner of Masonic and Page has finally been fully renovated for supportive housing and is open for business as the “ARC Mercy Community.” There are sixteen studio units for people with developmental disabilities as well as administrative offices



Photo credit: Ted Loewenberg

Ribbon cutting ceremony for opening of ARC Mercy Community on October 25, 2017. (Left to Right) Jennifer Dresen-ARC, Doug Shoemaker-Mercy Housing, Supervisor London Breed, Rosetta Burroughs-resident (seated), Mayor Ed Lee, Ari Beliak-Bank of America, Laurence Ferguson-HUD, Connie Tabas-ARC.

and a landscaped courtyard. A large central room with a community kitchen will be the main focus of activity programming.

Built in 1904 as a private hospital, it had most recently been used as a 38-room residential hotel, but was ill suited for that purpose with its dark interiors and runway-wide corridors. After it closed, several groups tried to organize funding to revitalize the building but failed.

After more years of standing empty, the building was finally bought by Mercy Housing in 2011 using funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and a loan from Bank of America. Partnering with ARC, the nonprofit advocates for the developmentally disabled, they struggled for years to nail down the \$3.3 million for a complete building rehab.

So great is the need that units were secured by a lottery system. Qualifications included low-income and the ability to carry out certain basic functions. Priority was given to people displaced by former Re-development projects. Pets are allowed. For more information contact Lucinda Hass at lhass@mercyhousing.org

—Karen Crommie

Call for News

We need news items, articles, letters, opinion pieces. Tell us what you know about Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury. We want to hear from you! cviasf@aol.com

McDonald's Draws Crowd

Tension was rife at the first meeting on the future use of the McDonald's site after the anticipated finalization of its sale to the city using funds from HUD. More than 150 people crammed into the Park Branch Library's community room on November 7 as local compliance officer Eugene Flannery



patiently explained the long process of environmental and historic analyses required before HUD releases the purchase funds. Only after meeting federal requirements, including Native American interests (this is fed money, don't forget),

would the state's environmental review (CEQA) kick in. We're talking years here. No one in the room disagreed that the double lot would be better utilized by affordable residential housing, but there were other issues—height and density of the proposed building, sizes of units and occupancy priority. Most potentially controversial was the eventual use of the ground floor and—even more pressing—how the site would be utilized during the approximate two years of preparation.

As the meeting, held by the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) progressed, building size became contentious. Some in the neighborhood are already advocating for 100 percent affordable units, which would trigger the new Affordable Home Density Bonus (AHDB) statute permitting the structure to rise three extra



As audience members began to shout out questions in frustration, MOHCD Deputy Director Kate Hartley took over the meeting.

stories or to 80 feet—quite a contrast from the present height limit of 50 feet for that location. Several neighbors articulated concern over the three choices given: 1) no purchase, 2) a structure with 186 units or, 3) one with 124 units. In other words, a building within the zoning height was not even considered. Page Street resident Rob Weaver asked, “Do you really think increasing the population to twice the number of people in this room won't have a major impact?”

Many people speaking during public comment assumed that “affordable housing” meant housing for the homeless, rather than the working poor, and emphasized the need for supportive (counseling, medical) services on the ground floor. Haight merchant Sunshine Powers spoke tenderly about using the new building to house “all the kids on Haight Street.” While one young father hoped that he, his wife and school age children would be able to remain in Cole Valley after his next rent raise. “This is a great opportunity for us,” he said. Others spoke about giving priority to teachers. Thanks to legislation passed



London Breed, 40 percent if the building will be allocated to people already living in the neighborhood.

We understood right away that this “scoping” meeting was not the place to push for discussion of the use of the ground floor, nor utilization of the site during the pre-construction period. Those fights will be for another day. But it is well known that there are City Hall advocates for the installation of a Navigation Center for hard-to-place homeless people. Nearby neighbors have suggested an assortment of “pop-up” businesses in the parking lot such as the food trailers near Octavia Boulevard in Hayes Valley or a place for hard-service recreation, such as tennis or basketball. Homeless Youth Alliance director Mary Howe envisions a temporary center for homeless youth (13-29 years).

The Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development welcomes neighborhood input in writing up until November 30, 2017. Address your comments to Eugene Flannery, Environmental Compliance Manager, 1 South Van Ness Ave., 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103 or email eugene.flannery@sfgov.org. Use “730 Stanyan Street” in the subject line.

—Karen Crommie

Panhandle Troubles Assessed

Situated between two major thoroughfares in a densely populated area, the narrow urban forest is a neighborhood gem. But not one without problems. The park received a “D” grade on the Parks Alliance “playground report card,” and was cited as having arsenic-treated wood in the play structure, round swing sets and other potential hazards.

The results from two recent Rec and Park community meetings on the Panhandle Playground Renovation project, with a \$3 million budget, were recently released. Most people liked elements in the current playground such as the slides, swings and the play structure. Less popular were the maintenance building, the entry gate on the east side and the chain link fence, while others voiced concern about lack of maintenance, graffiti, vandalism and the potential presence of dangerous items such as needles, bottles and trash. There was mixed feedback on the use of sand.

Most agreed on the need for clear sightlines for better supervision, accommodation for a wide range of ages, a climbing structure, monkey bars for older children and, at the same time, more options for toddlers. As comments piled up, it was clear that the limited space couldn’t be all things to all people. For example an adult-friendly workout area and options for older kids would be hard to combine with the needs of toddlers. For more information contact melinda.stockmann@sfgov.org.

Ashbury Market Sale Goes South

Hoodline.com reporter Alisa Scerrato recently announced that the owner of Ashbury Market (205 Frederick) Ben Robinson was prepared



Last minute back-out created problems.

to finalize the sale of the upscale corner store to Navid “Tony” Hoomanrad of Austin Texas. While discussing details of the transaction with members of the Hoomanrad family until 3 a.m. on the morning of the scheduled handover, it was discovered that the firm hired to record the store’s inventory had made an error.

Robinson told Scerrato that, “The company didn’t count all of the inventory, and with the inventory they did count, the buyer did not agree with the outcome of the price.” Soon after, Robinson contacted Hoomanrad in an attempt to renegotiate the deal, but he replied that a family member had fallen ill and he had to pull out.

But it wasn’t as easy as all that. The utilities, business and liquor licenses all had to be transferred back into Robinson’s name, a process taking many days and financial loss.

Scerrato writes, “Robinson, who purchased the store in 2012, said he’s not certain if he’ll put Ashbury Market up for sale again, but will make a decision down the road. Born and raised in the area, he said he has a good relationship with his landlord, [the revered Wong family] who operated the market from the 1950s until 1999.”

Excerpted from Hoodline.com, with thanks to Alisa Scerrato

Neighborhood Merchants Help Fire Victims

If it weren’t for Leah Garchik and Stannous Fluoride, many of us wouldn’t have known that Sunshine Powers, owner of two Haight



Haight merchant Sunshine Powers is on the board of Taking it to the Streets.

Street clothing stores, organized a group of street kids to load piles of used clothing, bedding and pet food into trucks for delivery to Santa Rosa. Powers awoke on the day after the fire devastated Sonoma County and immediately put out the word that she would accept donations at her store on the corner of Haight and Masonic. After a week passed, she and volunteers had packed over 100 loads into busses headed north. Some of the young people were employees of Taking it to

The Streets, the group started by Christian Calinsky providing housing in exchange for work cleaning neighborhood sidewalks. To her credit, Sunny Powers is on the board of TTS, which, by the way, was honored at the CVIA’s Summer Social in 2016 with a grant of \$1,000.

The following week in Cole Valley, Luke Chappell solicited donations from families who “bought” pumpkins to carve on tables erected in front of Luke’s Local on the two Saturdays prior to Halloween. All proceeds went directly to people displaced by the fire. The creations, which scaled from standard to weird, produced lots of energy, competition and laughs.

Down the block at Leenie Rae Boutique + Art Gallery, owner Arlene Cook is hosting a Holiday Party on December 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. to raise money for the fire victims.



Photo: Joan Downey

It’s not too late to make a contribution.

Luke’s Local offered pumpkin carving activities in exchange for donations to North Bay fire victims.

The need for clothing and sundries is apparently over but financial assistance is still much needed. The list of local agencies asking for help is long and, unless you know one personally, there is a certain amount of risk in making an online donation. The best choice seems to be The Press Democrat’s “North Bay Fire Relief Fund” established in conjunction with the office of State Senator Mike McGuire at northbayfire donations.com. One hundred percent of donations go to the displaced residents. Another choice might be the American Red Cross’s special fund for victims of “California Wildfires” at redcross.org

—Karen Crommie

Green Benefit District:

An idea worth considering

Do you enjoy using Buena Vista Park and perhaps Corona Heights open space? Are Mount Olympus or the Saturn Street Steps part of your neighborhood rambling area? Unfortunately, many of these nearby open spaces (including stairways) in our neighborhood suffer from lack of funding for both adequate maintenance and repairs or physical improvements. A group of residents around Buena Vista is following the lead of other neighborhoods (i.e. Dogpatch, Inner Sunset) to explore the advantages of establishing a Green Benefit District (GBD) to remedy at least some of the resource shortages that prevent these green spaces from serving the community as well as they should. The GBDs are similar to the Community Benefit Districts (CBDs), now 15 in total, established throughout the city providing services largely around neighborhood commercial areas.

What is a “Green Benefit District”?

A GBD provides funding for services and programs above and beyond what the City currently delivers. The funding is based on fees assessed each property owner; these vary from property to property depending on proximity to the green spaces, level of services provided, and type of property (single family, condo, commercial). It requires 50% +1 vote of property owners in the proposed area to approve the district. Ballots are prepared and sent by the City. If successful, fees are then collected by the City but are not managed by the City. Instead, a non-profit organization receives the fees, makes an annual plan for expensing the fees, and provides coordination with relevant City agencies. The City continues to provide existing services: these are also detailed and outlined in the management plan for the new district that is approved by the Board of Supervisors. The assessment runs for a specific amount of time (usually 15 years) and must be renewed annually at a meeting before the Board of Supervisors.

What services can a Green Benefit District provide?

The specific services for each GBD depend on the amount of fees raised. Districts can expense both maintenance services and capital infrastructure costs as determined and approved by the Board of Directors. Examples of the services a Green Benefit District could provide for the Greater Buena Vista GBD include, but are not limited to:

Landscaping assistance (weeding, pruning, planting, watering) and sustainability projects; planning and design assistance; matching funds for specific capital projects or programs; volunteer coordination; new playground equipment, path improvements, erosion control, new dog play area; expanded removal of trash, sidewalk litter; community ambassadors and social service outreach personnel; coordination to leverage city department and community resources; coordination with local schools and the Randall Jr. Museum for educational programming; activity programming, i.e. Tai Chi, tennis lessons, Tot Tumbles etc.

Exploring a Greater Buena Vista GBD

An initial committee of interested property owners is working with San Francisco’s Department of Public Works (Jonathan Goldberg) to initiate outreach and survey park users and property owners within the proposed district’s boundaries. The boundaries currently proposed are 17th Street on the South, Clayton on the West, Page on the North, and Divisadero on the West. A Management Plan for proposed district services and improvements will be prepared in consultation with the community to set priorities given the likely budget of the district. A specialized consultant (Assessment Engineer) works in concert with the steering committee to draft an Engineer’s Report, which determines the appropriate/fair assessment amounts for property owners based on a specific formula that acknowledges distance from open space(s) being improved, size of property, etc. After document review and approval by Public Works, the committee will conduct a ‘weighted’ property owner petition vote, where each property’s vote is representative of their

contribution to the total district budget. Receipt of supportive petitions representing 30%+1 of the total district budget triggers a formal ballot election, administered by the City. A majority-weighted vote (50%+1) of assessed property owners is required for the Board of Supervisors to establish the district.

How are funds managed?

In addition to the assessment funds, the nonprofit organization can raise additional funds for the district through grants, private donations, and special event, just as any nonprofit. Any unspent funds are rolled over into the next year’s budget. The Executive Director, working with the Board of Directors, prepares the annual budget and oversees expenditures.

Can fees be raised?

After the first year, any assessment levy increase authorized by the Board of Directors cannot exceed the change in the Consumer Price Index or three percent (3%), whichever is less.

What happens if owners don’t pay?

Nonpayment of the assessment will have the same lien priority and delinquent payment penalties as the ad valorem property tax.

What if owners are not happy with the services?

The service ‘menu’ can be changed annually when the budget is discussed and approved by the Board of Directors. Neighbors can also petition the Board of Supervisors to cancel the GBD at the annual presentation before the Board.

A series of Park User Surveys (“Intercept Surveys”) is being conducted this fall to help determine who exactly is using the green spaces in the proposed district and what their priorities are for improvements. The same survey is available on line at gbvgbd.org so anyone can express their thoughts about priorities and the GBD. Volunteers are needed to help with the on-site surveys, as well as with distribution of postcards with the web address so that outreach is as extensive as possible. Speakers from the Steering Committee are available to come to your “Block Party” to discuss the GBD with folks. Use this as an excuse to get together with your neighbors! Please contact info@gbvgbd.org if you would like to volunteer, including participation on the organizing committee.

—Isabel Wade

I’ve been involved my entire career in trying to improve the city’s parks and street trees. Buena Vista Park and the other eight open spaces in our proposed district have been largely neglected over the years and have serious maintenance and infrastructure needs. For those who say, “The City should pay for this,” I totally agree—but in my observation,



Isabel Wade

Rec and Park is never going to be allocated enough resources to do the job adequately. I have watched the budget closely for the last 20 years and we simply lack the consistency of effort to perform what is needed with the on again/off again staffing. Should we do nothing while we wag our finger at the City because we are not on the top of the civic totem pole? For less than a dollar a day, we can greatly improve our open space maintenance, access resources to repair the infrastructure, and even conduct some recreational programming in the parks for children and adults. Please look at the website and take the survey and get involved! www.gbvgbd.org. Send ideas or reserve a speaker for your Block Meeting at info@gbvgbd.org (Greater Buena Vista Green Business District)

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. Contact cviasf@aol.com or call 415-431-1414 to learn the location.

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

September

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa—September 4, 2017—7:00 p.m.

■ 7:00 Call to order by President Cathy Haller

Guest: Maggie Lohmeyer, new site director of Waller Center

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$28,124.41 out of which \$7,615.79 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$5,517.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ Lena Emmery stated that the Deltas soccer team is still having difficulty filling the stadium. The owner fears that if attendance doesn't improve, they won't be able to continue.

■ Karen Crommie sent information regarding the Planning Department's residential expansion to Chuck Canepa and Lena Emmery who, despite several readings of the document couldn't make heads or tails of it. Amy Blakeley suggested if it didn't make sense to a real estate broker and a contractor, maybe they needed to be clearer in their intent. Perhaps for that reason, CSFN's general assembly opposed the proposal and CVIA voted to support them.

■ Lena attended the Police Commission hearing on the use of tasers. There were meetings both on September 12 and 19. Only 100 people were allowed in at each meeting. CVIA voted to support the use of tasers by the police and Lena will write a letter stating our support.

■ Edward Walls attended a UCSF community meeting where the construction work at 5th Avenue and Kirkham was discussed. "Soft" work on the inside of the building will begin in December. They plan to control truck routes to create less of an impact on neighbors. The Science Building is gutted.

■ Edward also attended a meeting on August 24 regarding the Sutro Forest Management Plan. About 50 people spoke and seemed evenly divided between those who were in favor of the tree removal and those who were adamantly against it. There will be another meeting on September 22. Any written comments should be sent before then. Chuck will write a letter stating CVIA's approval of the tree removal plan.

■ Cole Valley Fair: Joan will email CVIA board members their schedule of work at the fair. She asked if anyone had a map of CVIA's actual boundaries. She felt it would be helpful to have at the fair, since some people believed that CVIA only covered Cole Valley issue and not those of the greater Haight. We decided to sell both the long and short sleeve t-shirts for \$15 each.

■ Cathy Haller spoke to Grattan School regarding receipt of a targeted grant from CVIA. It was suggested that we donate \$1,500 to the Readers' Workshop Program and \$500 for their garden, which is looking somewhat seedy. Carole Glosenger suggested that we donate the entire \$2,000 to the book program, which would have a long term effect of helping the students, while money going to the garden would only have a temporary effect. We agreed to donate the entire \$2,000 to the Reader's Workshop Program.

■ Carole reported that a call to London Breed's office for an update on the purchase McDonald's proved unsatisfactory. It is evidently not a "done deal" at this date.

■ Cathy said that a special task force will present its findings on a Safe Injection Site sometime in September. Everyone agreed that the most practical safe injection site location should be in the Tenderloin. They stated that those injecting drugs would not go to another neighborhood to access a safe injection site. After the Tenderloin location, they felt that the second best location would be the Civic Center, then the Mission, then South of Market, then Bayview and then the Haight.

■ Joan reported that 20 tickets for the once-a-year "All San Francisco Concert" were taken within the first 12 hours and that there is now a waiting list of 7 people. She said that the Wooden coffee shop opened quietly today at the corner of Carl and Cole. She said that DPW was supposed to remove two "ugly" trees from Carl and Stanyan, but that they are only going to remove one, since one remains healthy enough to stay.

■ Special guest Maggie Lohmeyer, new Director-in-Residence at Waller Center, updated the board on changes to the property. (See article on page 10.)

Adjournment: 9:30

October

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger – October 2, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

■ 7:00 Call to order by President Cathy Haller

Guests: Mike Vladimer and Brenda Stone

■ Approved minutes of last meeting presented by Marianne Hesse, in the absence of Karen Crommie

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$26,336.41 out of which \$7,615.79 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$5,517.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ In the absence of Lena Emmery, there was no report from the Community Police Advisory Board.

■ Because Karen Crommie was on vacation at the time of the September meeting, there was no CSFN report.

■ Edward Walls reported that although the State of California has vetoed establishing safe injections sites, State Senator Scott Weiner and city supervisors are vowing to ignore state policy.

■ Joan Downey described a new protocol for validating active CVIA memberships to Lavation, which is offering a 50% discount on membership to their fitness center to CVIA members in good standing. Lavation will send CVIA a list every month of people who have applied for the discount and Joan will confirm or deny validity.

■ Marianne Hesse reported on a rise in people sleeping on Waller Street since the Waller Center has erected scaffolding in preparation for work on its exterior.

■ Motion approved to offer the staff of Cole Street merchants (limit: two) who support the "Clean Cole Street," a waiver of \$20 sitting fee for family pictures with Santa.

■ President Cathy Haller asked that we come to a consensus as to the boundaries of CVIA (specifically in the west) as there seems to be some

Special thanks 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.

■ Carole Glosenger has agreed to organize a meeting with Supervisor London Breed and neighbors living in close proximity to Haight and Stanyan (and the CVIA Board) to discuss a possible Navigation Center at the site of the present McDonalds. Meeting would take place at her home (or that of neighbor Richard Shadoian) preferably between October 22 and November 6.

■ CVIA member Brenda Stone made the point that, for those opposing the establishment of such a center, emphasis should be made on the uniqueness of the Haight Ashbury: its persistent problems, impact of transient youth, history of drug use and progress made in last ten years to decrease its over abundance of social services (42 at their peak within a square half mile) and turn it back to a family neighborhood.

■ Joan has asked Serena Unger to write an article about the “All San Francisco Concert” by the SF Symphony at Davies Hall on September 15, 2017

■ Board asked Brenda Stone to write an article on rearing children in Cole Valley

■ In a “lessons learned” discussion about the Cole Street Fair, members thought that, because the T-shirt stock was so well organized, sales were much easier; some wished that communication regarding booth tasks could have been made clearer eliminating duplication. As for the Fair in general, some were disappointed with food and amount of music performers, while all commented on the wonderful history section, the delightful turnout of parents with small children and the general family feeling of the fair.

■ The next meeting on November 6 will be held at the home of Chuck Canepa and Lena Emmery.

Adjournment 9:30 p.m.

November

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa—November 6, 2017—7:00 p.m.

■ 7:00 Call to order by President Cathy Haller

Guest: Isabel Wade

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$36,264.35 out of which \$6745.15 is being held in the Clean Cole Street account while \$14,157.46 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ In her review of the last CPAB meeting, Lena Emmery reported on the parting of Park Station Captain John Sanford and introduction of his replacement, Captain Una Bailey.

■ Webmaster Amy Blakeley was not present but indicated earlier that she would post information about Santa on Cole to the CVIA website, while Cathy will post the same information on NextDoor. Joan will submit same to the Park Station newsletter.

■ Motion approved that Lena Emmery (CPAB rep) will extend an invitation to the new Park Station captain to attend a CVIA board meeting.

■ Chuck Canepa said that he no longer felt he could represent CVIA at UCSF’s community meetings. Edward Walls responded that he might (gradually) take over that obligation.

■ Karen Crommie asked members to weigh in on three resolutions to be voted on at the next CSFN meeting. 1) Agreed that the Lucky Penny site (Masonic and Geary) should not exceed 80 feet, 2) Opposed establishment of a Whole Foods on Polk Street 3) Opposed any changes to the Clean Water Act.

■ Joan reported a robust response by CVIA members to tickets (\$12) for the All San Francisco Symphony in September and that next year she will order the maximum allowed to a single organization (30).

■ Discussed CVIA’s traditional boundaries and moved the northern border to Fell Street. Karen to distribute map to all members.

■ Presentation by Isabel Wade on a proposed Green Benefit District. (See page 7 article)

■ Discussed the upcoming meeting on use of the McDonalds site at Stanyan and Haight. Agreed that CVIA should make a case for permanent affordable housing, compliance with the Haight Commercial District height limit, that teachers and seniors be considered part of the tenancy priority, that the ground floor be used for neighborhood-serving retail and/or a senior center, that use of the site during the approximate two years of preparation for building be used as a “pop-up” food/art/beverage site (such as Octavia and Hayes), shared car parking, or hard-surface recreational use.

■ Next meeting will be on January 8 at the home of Carole Glosenger.

Adjournment: 9:15

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, Edward Walls

Talented Neighbors Will Again Put Cole Valley in the Spirit

The band started off at the Cole Valley Fair some years ago as a little jazz ensemble and grew into a sing-along group, playing Beatles, Bowie and Summer of Love classics so that friends and neighbors could join in. Its members are Haight Ashbury Co-op Pre-school and Grattan



The Tantrums will be performing in Cole Valley on December 10.

Elementary parents who have known each other for years. They’re called The Tantrums, due to the connection of bass player Richard Weld to his beloved toy shop, Tantrum, that he runs with his partner Amanda Weld. (And also in recognition of the many children who dance at every performance). Every December there is a Cole Street Holiday Sing-Along, with songsheets and tambourines provided. The band plays carols and other holiday favorites. Join them on Sunday December 10 at 1 p.m. on Cole and Carl for another joyful gathering of the community.

—Amanda Lang

SAVE THE AGGRAVATION

Shop for Holiday Gifts
in Cole Valley and the
Haight. (If you can't find it
here, they don't need it.)



Cole Fair: Sweet and Lovely

It was a lovely day for the Cole Valley Fair—although the booth stagers arrived a little late. The merchants patiently prepared their wares, everything from fine jewelry to baby clothes, photography to hand-thrown pots. Rather than attracting people from all over the city, the event proved once again that a street fair can actually benefit the residents and be an enhancement to the community itself.



Erica Kajdasz organizes the Cole Valley Fair for fitness studios Midline and Lava-

Cole Street, between Grattan and Carl was packed with families pushing strollers, dogs in tow, waiting in line with their little ones for a turn in the bouncy house.

Some neighbors generously volunteered to help fair czarina Erica Kajdasz and the other owners of Midline and Lavation, who produce the event. Others manned stalls, or performed, but most just stopped to talk to friends, grab a snack, chat with the cops and Supervisor Breed, participate in the Booksmith's reading oriented activities and appraise the beautifully displayed wares in the wide variety of booths.

Besides all that, there was the old automobile display, lining Parnassus with beloved vehicles, their proud owners waiting hopefully for an opportunity to answer questions about this or that detail of performance or provenance.

But probably the biggest draw was Jessica Justino's annual Cole Valley History display, always mounted on the exterior south wall of



Photo: Joan Downwy

Neighborhood historian, Jessica Justino, featured Cole Valley Merchants in her display at this year's fair.

what is now Luke's Local. Not only has she blown up early photos of the neighborhood, but also each year features some particular aspect of contemporary life. This year it was Cole Valley's merchants—the faces we see every day but can't give names to.

—Karen Crommie

Cole Valley was Halloween Headquarters

Residents of Belvedere Street have once again passed the “Young at Heart” test with their generosity on Halloween night. What started as a safe (but sometimes scary) experience for neighborhood kids has turned into a city-wide affair. Still their complaints are only few. Three thousand pieces of candy was not unusual as the residents of the tree-lined streets, graced with lovely homes, welcomed children for four hours or more.



Credit must also be given to The Haight Street Fair, which has, for many years, produced an elaborate event on the Saturday before Halloween for neighborhood children. The Children's Halloween Hootennany, held in the Waller-Stanyan cul-de-sac drew youngsters from throughout the Haight, but particularly Cole Valley. The party is completely free, paid for by the Haight Street Fair proceeds and independent donors. It included a costume contest, performers, exhibitions and creative hands-on activities. A big thanks to event director Monique Woodhams and HASF president Michael Xavier who worked so hard to make it happen.

—Karen Crommie

New Life for Waller Center

Maggie Lohmeyer, the new Director-in-Residence at Waller Center (former Hamilton Church), attended the CVIA board meeting on November 6 to report on changes to the property. They have recently received financial grants and will be undergoing a number of renovations, beginning with exterior work: a roof replacement, new stucco and paint, re-paving of the parking lot, new fencing and gate security. Renovations will also be done to interior wiring and historic doors and windows.



The CVIA board encouraged Maggie to reach out if there is a particular improvement project we can support with a donation. The current schedule of programs will remain in place. Lohmeyer expressed her desire to make Waller Center an integral part of the community.

Maggie Lohmeyer speaking in favor of affordable housing at the Park Branch Library on November 7.

—Marianne Hesse

Postscripts



The Examiner reported that **auto burglaries** were up by 28 percent this year, spiking to 17,970, an increase compared to the 13,995 reported for the same period in 2016. The recent

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reassignment of SFPD captains is partially an effort to shake things up. Short of universal CCTV coverage, residents must be vigilant about reporting suspicious behavior of individuals on their block—peering into empty cars, going through mail, trying door handles and, most importantly, working to prevent “crimes of opportunity” by removing everything from the inside of an automobile.

* * *

The beloved **Belvedere Montessori pre-school** (155 Belvedere), directed for 28 years by **Barbara Alexander** is looking forward to becoming qualified for “heritage” status in two years. While she continues to gently widen the horizons of her students, Alexander is writing a book targeting families visiting San Francisco with young children. “They need to know about bus transportation, playgrounds with clean restrooms, places of interest to young minds, and eating places that don’t cost the moon. I want tourists to love San Francisco the way the kids and I do.”



Letters

Dear CVIA [via Marianne Hesse],

I am finishing my time at the Waller Center this month in order to return to graduate school full-time. Maggie Lohmeyer has taken over my duties as Site Coordinator at the Waller Center (former Hamilton Methodist Church) and will be residing in the onsite apartment. Maggie has experience with site management, event planning, and hospitality, and she will make a great manager and neighbor.

Thank you for the information on the sidewalk gardens earlier this summer. Our focus right now is on using our existing grant money to proceed with the building renovation, but please do let us know if funding becomes available again in the future. Maggie will be your point of contact.

It has been a pleasure being neighbors. I will miss living in the Haight, and I wish you and the rest of the neighborhood well.

Ken Schoon

CVIA Officers

President..... Cathy Haller
 Vice PresidentCarole Glosenger
 TreasurerJoan Downey
 Recording SecretaryKaren Crommie
 MembershipLena Emmery
 Community RelationsAmy Blakeley

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 Spring edition should be sent before February 1, 2018 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

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

Help

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

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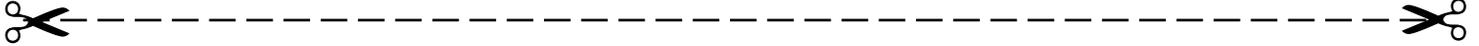
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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 _____

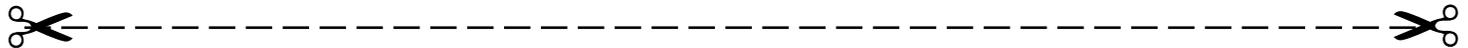
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

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

