

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXII      SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY      SPRING 2018

## Big Changes in Cole Valley: Moving Up and Moving Out

Both Real Food and the Natural Living Corner on Stanyan Street will be closing sometime in February — when their inventory runs out. Jane Allan, owner of the building, was notified of the closing at the same time the employees and neighbors were.

Kimball Allan opened the Stanyan Street Natural Food Store in 1969. Jane lived on Carmel Street at the time she met Kimball.



Photo: Lena Emmerly

Store closing came as a shock to employees.

Their stores became the first of a small chain of businesses known as “The Real Food Company,” which they owned and operated until 2002. It was then sold to Nutraceutical, a Utah-based natural products company. Last year Nutraceutical, which once operated more than 20 markets, scaled back retail operations after it was acquired by HGGC, a private equity group co-founded by former 49ers quarterback Steve Young. Jane Allan plans to make seismic upgrades to the building before making it available to a new tenant.

Urban Mercantile, the “modern purveyors of fine goods and gifts,” closed on January 12. After over 16 years in operation, 14 of which



Photo: Joan Downey

Urban Mercantile's space went on the rental market before Christmas.

were located at 85 Carl Street, Urban Mercantile closed its bricks and mortar operation. Owner Bradley Burch will be concentrating on a new e-commerce concept, product development, maker consulting,

*Continued on Page 2, Column 2*

## CVIA Takes Stand on Development of McDonald's Site

*Ed. note: Below is a copy of a letter sent to Eugene Flannery, environmental compliance manager at the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD), on January 20, 2018.*

Dear Mr. Flannery,

On behalf of the Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA) and its over 500 members, we would like to share our thoughts regarding the development of 730 Stanyan Street. We welcome the addition of 100% permanent affordable family housing to our neighborhood and believe it should include all four income levels established in the state's Regional Housing Need Determination.

**Impact:** Irrespective of height extensions provided by the Affordable Housing Density Bonus Program, neighborhood character must be taken



into consideration. This is a 32,400 sq. ft. lot fronting Golden Gate Park. It cannot be a looming monolith. We question the Environmental Assessment of “no impact,” feeling that, on the contrary, several hundred new people will have a significant effect on all

aspects of the neighborhood's daily life. For that reason, and in the interest of preserving neighborhood character, we ask that height limit should conform to the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Commercial Zoning standard of 40 feet, or three stories above ground floor.

**Ground Floor:** We feel that the ground floor should be reserved for commercial use. Following the philosophy of Jane Jacobs, small, neighborhood-serving businesses would best integrate the building occupants into the community and vice versa. Unlike non-profit services centers, private businesses would have an investment in exterior appeal



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and maintenance. For starters we need an affordable family restaurant, shoe repair store, bakery, flower shop.

**Parking:** Although it would be nice if everyone in the building used public transit 100 percent of the time, we all know this is impossible. In fact, it is the low-income worker who most needs a car. Even more important are the needs of disabled and elderly residents. Some on-site parking is vital.

**Interim Period:** Any interim use should be respectful of the neighborhood residents and the young children who live here. All interim activities held on the site should enhance the area and help to reduce the crime and drug use historically associated with this location. It is critical that the neighborhood and the Park Station Police are involved in the selection of any interim use.

**Conclusion:** The development of the 730 Stanyan site is a 'once in a generation' opportunity to enhance or erode the neighborhood. Situated at the entry to San Francisco's signature Park, it is important that there be appropriate forethought to the long-term implications of the development. A unique opportunity exists to provide a superb location for families struggling to remain in our city.

With appreciation for your consideration,  
Board of Directors  
Cole Valley Improvement Association

## Irvin W. Govan

February 14, 1946 - December 20, 2017

It is with sadness that CVIA marked the passing of a long time member who, along with his husband Les Silverman, was a generous benefactor to Cole Valley. Irvin Govan started out with very little opportunity in East Oakland in mid-century Bay Area. He went to public schools before being drafted into the war in Vietnam. After surviving the War, he went back to college and then on to being a Lab technician, graphic designer, investor and successful property owner and landlord. Along the way he faced every challenge, every success, and every opportunity with the same calming resolve and inspired all of us who worked and played with him to be better.

(Excerpted from the SF Chronicle, January 14, 2018)

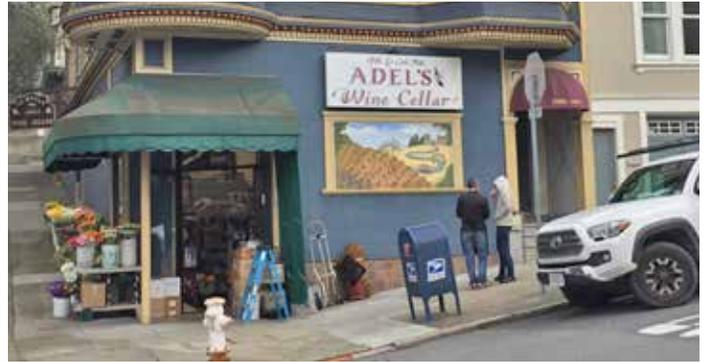


Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Send an email to [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com) or Leave a message at 415-431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

*Big Changes, continued from page 1, column 1.*

and continuing with his interior design business. He thanks his diehard fans and neighbors for making all these years as a merchant a success and a joy. The space was quickly occupied by Jeni Gamble, the owner of Gamble + Design, a small design and architecture firm. She has expressed eagerness to get involved in the community.

Adel Shalabi has operated Adel's wine cellar and Market at 17th and Cole for 36 years. He's ready to retire now and spend time with



*Adel's always stocks the best cut flowers in the neighborhood.*

his family in Redondo Beach, and his property both at Lake Almador and in Egypt. He will continue ownership of the building but is looking for someone to take over the current operation. Cole Valley will be his



*During construction, Mane Attraction has relocated to 1350 Haight Street.*

primary residence so you will still see him in the neighborhood.

The building that houses Padrecito, Mane Attraction, and Lavande is undergoing the city-mandated seismic upgrade for buildings that have a soft story and five or more residential units.

To do the work, Mane Attraction was the only business that had to vacate. They're still in operation, but at 1350 Haight. We look forward to the return of Grant Phillips and his team in about four months.



*Crepes on Cole closed for eight days in January in order to improve accessibility and make other upgrades. It re-opened on January 27 with all new furniture. Above, co-owner Hail Jwainat proudly shows his new lower counter.*

—Joan Downey



## 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 February 15, 2017 to February 15, 2018. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

**OMG! (\$2,000):** Tracy and Patrick Jennings

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

**Donors (\$100 - \$249):** Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Eugene Chen, Diane & Christopher Davies, Kathryn Demas, Joan Downey, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Robert Gordon & Bill Haskell, Marianne Hesse, Linda C Hothem, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Eileen Lemus, Jane & Michael Miller, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Janan New, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Michael Rafferty, Sigrid Schafmann, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Michael J. Sullivan

**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, Jim Laufenberg, Michelle & Wallace Lim, Bahereh & John Manning, Ineke Ruhland & Bill O'Such, John Priest, Ellen Rashbaum, Robin Ridgeway, Kendra & Billy Robins, Elaine Robinson, Susan & Steven Rosen, Beth & Rick Thurber, Kathe Traynor, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, William A. Villaroel, Ken Wilcox, Victoria Zaroff

**Supporters (\$25 - \$49):** Gail & Howard Berman, Kathleen Bertram, Sharon Birenbaum, Penny Duan & Steve Chaffin, Ellen Curry, Judy Groves & Kevin Dede, Jeanne Blamey & Rob Fram, Deb & Todd Frederick, Mari Coates & Gloria Galindo, Melissa & Glen Gee, Carole Glosenger, Lauren Gunderson, Janet & Mark Hall, Jean Hayward, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Catherine & Brian Kane, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Richard Magary, Dennis Martino, Barbara Mow, Thomas Nicoll, Robert Page, Marlie Palmer, Celia Price, Francine M. Prophet, MeMe Riordan, Benjamin Thompson, Deborah Van Atta, Isabel Wade, Edward C. Walls, Mary Ann Wolcott,

**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, Allison Grass, Sareena Hirani, Maryann Hrichak, Corina Jordan, Jessica Lassere, Marie & Bruce Sampson, Isabel Greenfield & Dan Selvig, Diane & Bob Silver, Mary Ann de Sousa, Rita Veideman

## The Dream Ending: The SF Deltas Finish as Champions

This journey that started in 2015 has the makings of a movie with character-defining struggles, heroic moments, painful defeats, and overcoming seemingly impossible hurdles all culminating in a dream come true on Sunday, November 12, 2017, when the SF Deltas were crowned the national champions after defeating the New York Cosmos—arguably the most storied brand in U.S. Soccer history. I'll never forget the scene of thousands of fans storming the field. Now that the celebration has come to an end, players and coaches have been released from their contracts. Yes, we are closing down the Deltas. We will not leave any loose ends and everybody will be paid what they're owed for 2017—including players, coaches, staff, partners and vendors.

I'm so grateful to so many people who made this possible including my partner Fábio, investors, advisors, the league, other team owners and staff, the city of San Francisco, partners and vendors. I'm so grateful to everybody who worked for the club and their families because they not only wore the SF Deltas logo on their clothing, but they had it in their



Photo: Facebook.com

The SF Deltas, based at Kezar, won the championship but lost their team. hearts. Last, but most definitely not least, I'm grateful to the true owners of the club...the fans. Your stories and passion are what motivated us to overcome the hurdles to accomplish what we were able to accomplish. I'm so grateful that all of you were rewarded with the championship.

In hindsight we have not been perfect. Far from it. We have learned so much from this adventure and we will begin organizing the thoughts that led to us to make this decision. Our hope is to share them for the benefit of others who are interested in developing the sport here in San Francisco or in other cities. I firmly believe that via transparency and collaboration we can improve the sport we all love.

This is a very sad moment because it's definitely not the desired outcome. However, there's a lot to be proud of and I hope it will leave a lasting effect on all of you. Not just as the startup soccer team that went on to win a championship on the field, but as the team who did all they could to benefit the community off the field. I'm eternally grateful to all the people who I've met and who made this journey possible. Thank you.

—Brian Andrés Helmick, CEO, [sfdeltas.com](http://sfdeltas.com)

### CVIA Officers

President.....	Cathy Haller
Vice President .....	Carole Glosenger
Treasurer .....	Joan Downey
Recording Secretary .....	Karen Crommie
Membership .....	Lena Emmery
Community Relations .....	Amy Blakeley

## Say Cheese Brings a Worldly Touch to Cole Valley

Say Cheese is one of Cole Valley's oldest businesses. It was founded in 1976 by two gentlemen named Bob and George. At that time, it was unusual to see a shop devoted solely to cheese and charcuterie. It was very much like something you would find in Europe. No soap, no cereal, just cheese. And, wonderful cheese it was. I would go to the shop every week and ask for unusual cheeses that you wouldn't find in grocery stores. For years, I had wine tastings and wanted something different each time. I would put a little toothpick flag in each cheese and tell the story of where it came from: It was both an educational wine AND cheese tasting.

The shop was bought by Roger Soudah in July of 1994. Roger, who has a degree in economics and public policy, could have done many other things. But the cheese shop pulled him in. "For me it's not

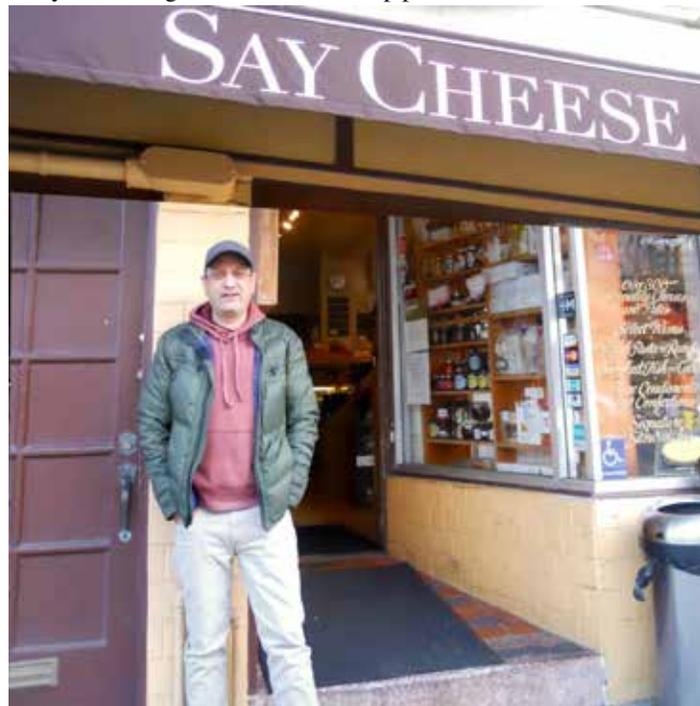


Photo: Carole Glosenger

*Roger Soudah chose cheese over economics.*

just running a business. It's being part of the community," he said. And Roger is definitely part of the community. He remembers when kids who locked themselves out of the house would come by and hang out until their parents came home. Almost everyone who has lived here for awhile knows Roger. He also owns the Reverie Cafe next door. Reverie is a great place to hang out, drink coffee with your laptop, and have a lovely breakfast or lunch.

You can often find Roger sitting in front of one of the two shops, chatting with neighbors and other merchants. Even though he does not live in Cole Valley, Roger is most always here and does all his shopping in the 'hood. He considers Cole Valley his neighborhood. I asked Roger what changes he has seen over the years. One of the things he's noticed is that the demographics have changed. Years ago, the residents of Cole Valley were mostly single people. Now, they are typically families with children. The neighbors are more affluent and, because it's so easy to order whole meals delivered to your door or go out to restaurants, many opt to do so. Working people with children don't cook at home as much. So, not as many people shop for ingredients in the cheese shop. However, you can put together a wonderful Mediterranean style meal with one stop at Say Cheese. They have great wine, pate, charcuterie,

olives, salads, bread and, of course, hundreds of great cheeses from all over the world. Who could ask for anything more?

Say Cheese is thriving and we are loving it. Roger said, "It's great that we are still doing what we like and are grateful that we have the support and concern of the community."

—Carole Glosenger

## Attention is Finally Paid to Stanyan Entrance of G. G. Park

The Recreation and Parks Department on January 5 held the final community meeting concerning the improvements to the eastern border and main pedestrian entrance to Golden Gate park. A plaza will be the emphasis of the entry at Haight and Stanyan. New pathways will encircle Alvard Lake. The Oak woodland, at the south edge, will be more wel-

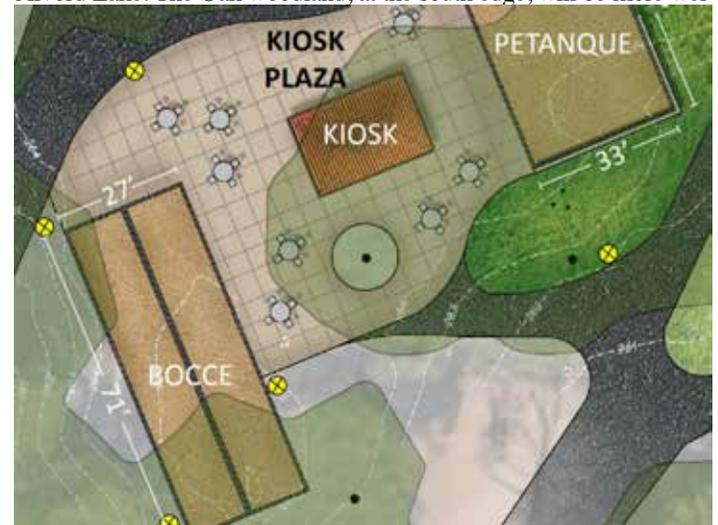


Photo: SF Rec and Park

*Scheduled activities and a refreshment kiosk should increase use.*

coming with wider trails and better lighting. The wider trail will enable police to patrol the area in their vehicles.

A walkway will be placed along the Stanyan Street edge (north to south) to provide better pedestrian access without damage to the lawn.

The area near the now-closed restrooms will also get a major overhaul. Rec and Park is planning a small food and beverage kiosk in front of the restroom building and is currently looking at proposals for the space and accepting applications for an operator-manager.\*

The plan also calls for pétanque and bocce ball courts in the areas adjacent to the kiosk. Bicycle rentals will continue nearby, as will the Red Umbrella artist events. All this will keep the area vitalized and provide a fitting entry to our beloved Golden Gate Park.

This next year will be spent getting contracts and approvals. It is anticipated that the actual construction will begin in January of 2019. The project is being funded out of the \$195 million Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond passed in 2012.

—Lena Emmerly

\*See details at [sfrecpark.org/about/partnership-opportunities](http://sfrecpark.org/about/partnership-opportunities)

**If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, please let us know at [CVIASF@aol.com](mailto:CVIASF@aol.com)**

## CVIA Gives Boost to Sutro Stewards Through Matching Grant

CVIA recently made a matching grant offer to the Sutro Stewards, the group founded by Craig Dawson in 2006 to build trails, remove invasive species, and grow and install native plants on Mt. Sutro. It is the largest organized independent volunteer pool in San Francisco, engaging over 1,000 volunteers each year and hosting six or more events a month.

Once the matching funds were met, a check for \$1,000 was presented to Amy Kaeser, executive director of the Stewards, by CVIA president Cathy Haller. The photo below was taken at the nursery



Photo: Lena Emmery

CVIA president Cathy Haller (first row, far left) presents a check for \$1,000 to Amy Kaeser, executive director of the Sutro Stewards.

where the volunteers stopped their work with seedlings to pose. You can catch a glimpse of Craig Dawson (back row, second from left), who is staying on as Senior Advisor to the group that he founded.

We hope you all continue to enjoy the unique recreation opportunities that this urban forest provides right in our neighborhood. Check out the Sutro Stewards' website for hiking trails along with volunteer and event opportunities at [sutrostewards.org](http://sutrostewards.org).

—Lena Emmery

## More Housing But at What Cost?

Responding to the state's need for affordable housing, State Senator Scott Wiener has proposed new legislation, SB-827, that will impact height and density laws throughout great parts of the city, including our neighborhood. Here's the gist of it:



State Senator Scott Wiener represents the 11th Senate District, encompassing San Francisco and parts of San Mateo County.

SB-827 would authorize the height of any development project that is within a quarter mile of a fixed bus route—with arrival frequency of no more than every 15 minutes during the peak hours—to go up from 35 or 40 feet to anywhere between 55 to 85 feet. The same will apply to any project within one block of a major transit stop.

Since San Francisco is well served by public transit, this will profoundly change the character of our neighborhoods. You can register your opinion by calling Senator Weiner's office at 415- 557-1300 or email him at <http://sd11.senate.ca.gov/contact>.

—Karen Crommie

## Supervisor London Breed Loses Chance as Interim Mayor

Instead of letting then-Acting Mayor London Breed to keep the position until the special June election, thereby relinquishing her role as Board President and choosing a replacement supervisor for D-5 as



Photo: mercurynews.com

Supervisor London Breed has represented District 5 since 2012.

in the SF City Charter, the so-called progressives panicked. Afraid that incumbency would give her a leg up in next November's scheduled mayoral election against the all-but-anointed Mark Leno, or Jane Kim, they made a deal with the devil (to them)—and chose moderate D-2 Supervisor Mark Farrell, to serve as Interim Mayor. Talk about back-door strategy. Newbie D-10 Supervisor Hillary Ronen was pushed to make an emotional and barely coherent case against Breed. (We're talking tears here.) Losing herself in her own rhetoric, she said, "The city has to be turned upside down." What the...? Savvy Aaron Peskin and his pals may find themselves too smart by half as the maneuver has sparked tremendous sympathy for Breed.

—Karen Crommie

### NEW SCHEDULE FOR POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Una Bailey holds community forums the

second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 7 to 8:00 p.m. She gives briefings on upcoming permitted events, reviews neighborhood criminal activity, and addresses the safety concerns of residents. It's an excellent way to stay in touch with what's going on in the neighborhood. The meetings are held at Park Station's Community Room (1899 Waller).



**April 10, May 9 (no meeting in March)  
Mark Your Calendar**

## Major Facelift at Waller Center

The Julia Morgan-designed building at 1526 Waller Street, site of the former Hamilton Methodist Church, is undergoing a major facelift. Workers are repairing the roof, removing walls infested with dry-rot, and repairing fencing, and windows.

The Waller Center currently serves as a neighborhood meeting place and “urban retreat” operated by the Board of Camping and Retreat Ministries of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

In addition to providing space for community, religious and non-profit groups, the organization also hosts the Haight-Ashbury Food Program, after-school basketball, and senior yoga.

Director Maggie Lohmeyer said she hopes that the renovations would allow the center to offer more services and greater safety to the



*The buildings on the large corner lot at Waller and Belvedere have unlimited potential once structural repair is completed.*

groups that stay overnight for retreats. She also wants to eventually utilize the old sanctuary space for local events such as choir or theater performances and community meetings.

—Marianne Hesse

### Bruce Norman Samson

*December 5, 1941 – December 17, 2017*

Long time CVIA member and popular Haight Street merchant Bruce Samson passed away peacefully just before Christmas at the age of 76. He was a second-generation native San Franciscan and grew up in the Sunset District. After graduating from Lincoln High School, Bruce attended University of Arizona and served in the United States Air Force. In 1969 he married Pennsylvania native Marie Roche at St. Francis of Assisi Church in San Francisco and they had three children, Brant, Benjamin and Daniel. Bruce and Marie owned **Kids Only** children's boutique on Haight Street, a beloved place for toys and gifts. Generations of families visited Kids Only for more than 30 years. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on January 6, 2018 at St. Agnes Church.

*(Excerpted from the SF Chronicle, January 3, 2018)*

## Donation Assures New UCSF Hospital at Parnassus Campus

It was announced on February 8, that UCSF has received a \$500 million donation from a longtime benefactor to build a new hospital at its Parnassus Heights campus—the first new hospital construction on the site in 35 years.

The commitment from San Francisco's Helen Diller Foundation brings the trust's total giving to UCSF to \$1.5 billion. The Diller family now ranks among a handful of U.S. philanthropists who have given \$1 billion or more to a single academic institution.

The new hospital, to be completed by 2030, will be built on the site of the current Langley Porter Psychiatric Hospital. That hospital will be demolished, and its outpatient services relocated to a new UCSF venue in the city's Dogpatch neighborhood by 2020. Inpatient care will remain at Parnassus Heights.

Helen Diller was a powerful woman who took a commanding leadership role in family giving. Born and raised in San Francisco,



*Photo: Michael Macor/SF Chronicle*

*The \$500 million gift was a welcome surprise to UCSF which, because of budget restraints, had temporarily tabled plans for a new hospital.*

she married the real estate investor (and future billionaire) Sanford Diller, and was active in philanthropic and educational causes and institutions throughout her life. She would emerge as one of the best friends that UCSF has ever had. Early on, in 2003, the foundation provided a \$35 million foundational investment in the university's presence at Mission Bay. In the last 14 years, the foundation made significant annual gifts and provided a permanent endowment for the Comprehensive Cancer Center at Mission Bay in Helen's honor. Helen passed away in 2015.

*(Excerpted from articles by SF Chronicle reporter Catherine Ho and Inside Philanthropy's Mike Scutari.)*

## 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.

**Visit our website at  
CVIASF.org**

## Planned Improvements Forecast Toil and Trouble on Haight

With merchants wary of the impact to business and organizers of the Haight Street Fair crossing their fingers, the long-planned revamp of Haight Street (Upper Haight Transit Improvement and Pedestrian Realm Project) is still scheduled to begin in the next few months. The project, which spans a half mile from Stanyan to Central and costs \$12 million, will include sewer work, increased pedestrian lighting, tree planting, bulb-outs and curb ramps, bus bulbs, sidewalk replacement, street base repairs and repaving, fiber conduit and a decorative sidewalk (think “sparkles”) at the historic Haight and Ashbury intersection. Traffic signals will be installed at both Clayton and Shrader intersections. In the meantime several mature trees will be removed between Masonic and Cole, to be replaced by up to 30 saplings. For more information contact Alex Murillo, Construction Outreach at alex.m.murillo@sfdpw.org.

*Note: Although we're grateful for the infrastructure improvement, the project also aims to “enhance the Haight-Ashbury's unique identity as a diverse residential neighborhood, a thriving commercial corridor, and an international tourist destination.” Really? Is there anyone who believes the Haight lacks vibrancy or that it could be made more of a tourist destination? Many residents who attended the community meetings held last year opposed the idea of “decorative sidewalks” and “sparkles,” which, once penetrated by street grime, look like the sad aftermath of a carnival. There seems to be a fixed desire by the Planning Department to turn this old neighborhood into a theme park.*

—Karen Crommie

## Ashbury Street Residents Question Bike-Sharing Plan

Ford GoBike has proposed locations for two 80 foot bike-sharing stations—one on Ashbury and another on Shrader (between Haight and Page). According to Alexander Garcia from Ford GoBike, the installation of the rental operation depends in part on community feedback. That said, it appears that the only outreach to the community to date has been an article on



*Neighborhood street parking is becoming an endangered species.*

Hoodline.com (11/29/17), presentations to HANC\* and HAMA\* and a limited distribution of business flyers to residents about the Ford GoBike mission, which did not indicate the location of the proposed stations.

With installation slated for the middle of 2018 and despite a stated company protocol of vigorous community outreach and involvement, neighbors recognized the need to self-organize if they were to have a voice in the decision-making. A block meeting held earlier this month identified resident concerns ranging from the very real impact on daily activities of families that the loss of five (5) more non-permit parking spaces for residents would impose, creation of a barrier to easy access from curb to door for service vehicles (ambulance, fire, construction), and the impact of introducing a commercial business on a residential block.

Neighbors will continue to reach out to Mr. Garcia at 415-237-3296 or at alexandergarcia@fordgobike.com; to Supervisor London Breed, at Breedstaff@sfgov.org; and to Heath Maddox at heathmaddox@sfmta.com.

—Ethel Konopka

\*HANC is the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council; HAMA is the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association.

## Still Caring for the Neighborhood

*Ed. note: Having been turned down by the City for his plan to improve safety at Fredrick and Arguello, where there are currently four crosswalks, three stop signs and widespread motorist and pedestrian confusion, respected Haight naturalist and historian Greg Gaar has looked other places for improvement.*

I've been attempting to get some of the excess asphalt removed from Arguello in Golden Gate Park next to the Community Garden. The goal is to beautify the Arguello entrance to the park with native plant gardens and to stop the illegal parking by ambulances and DPW/Recology that forces park users to walk in the middle of an active street.

As many as four or five ambulances loiter for hours in the No Parking/Tow Away zone and every morning (except Sunday) at 9:30, four DPW trucks bring garbage into the park and transfer it into Recology compactor trucks. Then comes the Recology bulky item trucks and sofas, mattresses etc. are moved into the compactor truck. So all morning people walking into the park (many mothers with kids going to Children's Playground) must dodge the big trucks and walk into the center of the street and then dodge the cars.

Yes. I have communicated with Rec and Park, the Park Rangers, DPW, Recology and all the ambulance big wigs but the problem persists. I watch this attack on Golden Gate Park everyday.

—Greg Gaar



Photo: Paul Chinn/SF Chronicle

*Although Greg Gaar no longer lives in Cole Valley, his work at the Native Plant Nursery and Community Garden keeps him involved in the neighborhood.*

Registration is now open for the Bay to Breakers 12k race on May 20. Sponsored this year by Alaska Airlines, it might set you back \$60, but will more than make up for it in the boost it gives your training for the next two months. And, yes, there's a t-shirt, finisher medal, refreshments and usual swag. Go to <https://events.race-partner.com/baytobreakers>

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[www.facebook.com/CVIASF](http://www.facebook.com/CVIASF)  
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## 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 415-431-1414 or email [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com) 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 Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) and the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods (CSFN).

### January

Location: Home of Marianne Hess - January 8, 2018 - 7 p.m. Guest: Randy Lavinghouse

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$40,354.82 out of which \$8,995.29 is being held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$15,517.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. She also announced that the 2017 Santa on Cole had netted \$2,900 toward paying for the daily cleaning of Cole Street. During the last month, she also renewed CVIA's Internet domain name.

■ In her CPAB report, Lena Emmery reported her (CVIA's) participation in the national Officer Appreciation Day on January 9 at which time a buffet meal is provided to each shift as it goes off duty.

■ CSFN rep Karen Crommie announced that CVIA will host the March 20 meeting of the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods. The Crommies will organize refreshments and president Cathy Haller will give a brief talk on issues and accomplishments of CVIA. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

■ Karen also distributed maps of the greater Haight Ashbury with CVIA's boundaries marked in color. Joan Downey amended the map by confirming that the northern border is Oak Street.

■ Motion approved to write a letter to Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) director, Kate Hartley indicating CVIA's recommendations for the building to be erected on the site of the present McDonald's restaurant. Cathy, Karen and Lena will work on this. Eugene Flannery (MOHCD), Vallie Brown (Office of Employment and Workforce Development) and Planning Department's David Lindsay (Manager, Northwest Quadrant) will be copied.

■ In her report on the Kezar Advisory Committee, Lena reported that the Deltas professional soccer team, based at Kezar Stadium, has officially folded in spite of winning their division in their first year.

■ Chuck Canepa reported that UCSF has stopped construction of UC Hall over budget challenges. It will remain a shell for the foreseeable future. He also said that plans for a new hospital to replace Moffat, which is non-compliant with new seismic standards, is behind schedule and will not be completed until 2029. The City has granted this extension to UCSF.

■ Joan reported on a discussion with both the owner of 682 Cole Street (site of the former Doug's Suds) and Steve Wickwire, the present owner of the site's Wooden Café, regarding a mural on the south wall "welcoming" N-Judah riders to Cole Valley. Seems Wooden owner has contacted the city regarding rules for painting a sign in the same location advertising the café.

■ Joan also introduced a proposal by naturalist/historian Greg Gaar regarding a reconfiguration of the intersection of Arguello and Frederick, closing off the south end of Frederick to increase safety and also offering an opportunity for greening with native plants. It was decided

that each board member should make a site visit and discuss it further at the February meeting.

■ Joan led a review of December's Santa on Cole, reminding those board members who had not picked a favorite photo, to do so immediately so that parent approval could be secured for this year's poster. She then reviewed the totals from sitting fees and print orders. She also passed along a suggestion by photographer Loic Nicolas that we offer a discount to CVIA members in the future. The subsequent discussion revealed agreement on the discount but discord on how it could be carried out. Decided to ask Loic to offer a solution. "Lessons learned" from the 2017 Santa photo shoot: 1) have ample CVIA newsletters to distribute, 2) have a sign up sheet already set up on David's iPad, and 3) assemble complementary (stash) packets for participating families well before time of opening (11 a.m.).

■ After a long discussion regarding future CVIA grant recipients, it was decided that each board member come up with a list of priorities for helping non-profit groups within CVIA's boundaries. Some suggestions included past recipients: To The Streets, Grattan Reader's Program, Sutro Stewards and Park Branch Library. New possibilities were the Haight Seniors, Chinese Immersion School and Rec and Park. Also McKinley School and the Randall Museum, which are just outside our boundaries.

■ At the request of president Cathy Haller, there was a discussion on protocol for determining consensus on response to calls from the press asking for a statement. It was decided that 1) subject line should include "urgent," 2) to preserve the "thread," make sure the subject line remains the same when responding and, 3) when letter writer has completed his/her final draft, subject line should read "This is what I am going to send unless I hear before (date)."

■ The next meeting on February 5 will be held at the home of Carole Glosenger.

Adjournment 9:00 p.m.

### February

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger - February 5, 2018 - 7 p.m. Guest: Steven Madrid, Robert Weaver.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of 441,181.85 out of which \$9,447.31 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$15,767.31 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ In her CPAB review, president Cathy Haller reported that new Park Station Captain Una Bailey had divided attendants into three groups: those primarily interested in crime prevention, quality of life and traffic safety. But there was consensus that, going forward, the members would move ahead as a group rather than as subcommittees and that crime prevention would be the first focus.

■ CSFN rep Karen Crommie reported on a presentation by SF activist Jon Golinger about his new book on the battle for the waterfront (Prop B) called "Saving San Francisco." Prop B gave San Francisco voters to have the last word on development of the waterfront. As a result, the City is being sued by the State, spearheaded by Gavin Newsom, who defends the jurisdiction of the State over port land. In other news: 1) The June ballot is formidable with 11 separate issues up for grabs. 2) There are major changes in Residential Permit Parking (go to [www.sfmta.com/permits/residential-parking-permits-rpp](http://www.sfmta.com/permits/residential-parking-permits-rpp) for details). 3) There is still a fight against blending Hetch Hetchy water with ground water, even though another drought is imminent and a water shortage is predicted. 4) Tilly Chang, Director of SF County Transportation Authority, spoke about the city's plans for congestion management and a regional measure to raise bridge tolls. Two \$100,000 grants have been earmarked for research on a second BART tube crossing the bay. Karen also reminded members that CVIA will host the March 20 CSFN meeting and all board members are encouraged to attend.

■ Chuck Canepa and Edward Walls announced that the next meeting of the UCSF CAG is coming up on March 7 and that a community meeting will be held on February 7, at 6:30 at the Alumni house, 745 Parnassus.

■ Joan reported on the current outreach to Cole Valley merchants asking them to contribute to the daily cleaning of the Cole Street commercial corridor. Cathy Haller to contribute editorial assistance.

■ Cathy reviewed a letter from Roger Soudah, owner of Say Cheese and Reverie, asking for our collaboration in publicizing a fundraising event for a mayoral candidate. Because of our 501©3 nonprofit status, we told him that, unfortunately, we could not.

■ Lena Emmery circulated a letter from CVIA supporting the effort of the Sutro Stewards to obtain a Community Challenge Grant. She also noted that Jenny Gabel, owner of a new Cole Valley interior design shop has indicated an interest in participating in the Clean Cole program.

■ Amy Blakeley reported that Waller Center director Maggie Lohmeyer has asked for suggestions to expand community use of the Center. This triggered suggestions such as classes in yoga, cooking, art, choral singing, along with concerts by local musicians, and various senior activities.

■ Long discussion on 730 Stanyan, the site of the McDonald's project. The Board reinforced its position of a forty foot height, tenants with all ranges of income eligible for affordable housing, commercial businesses on the ground floor, some parking, interim use that would be respectful of the neighborhood and reduce the crime and drug use historically associated with this location.

■ Steven Madrid suggested filing for Discretionary Review and holding a general meeting for Cole Valley residents. Carole Glosenger to check with MOHCD to see if future meetings are scheduled and to coordinate a CVIA meeting led by director Kate Hartley, explaining the City's plan to Cole Valley neighbors.

■ The next meeting on March 5 will be at the home of Karen and David Crommie.

Adjournment 9:15 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, Edward Walls

**A CLEAN  
COLE  
STREET**

**Our Neighborhood Heroes  
2017 Merchant Participants**

Bambinos, Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Finnegan's 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)

## Randall Museum Reopens

The Randall Museum located in Corona Heights has re-opened after extensive renovation, repair and upgrades. The \$9 million project was funded by a State grant, City funds and generous private donations through the Friends of Randall Museum.

The grand reopening on February 11 featured a collection of Native Californian-made baskets as a timeless example of working with natural materials. The exhibit is curated in partnership with Julia Parker, a Native Californian basket maker, teacher, and storyteller along with four generations of her family of weavers. The display includes examples of the Parkers' own work along with baskets from the Randall Museum's collection. Visitors were able to view traditional baskets created by



Photo: Randallmuseum.org

*Families eagerly awaited the reopening of the Museum on February 11.*

Native Americans and have the opportunity to try out simple basket making techniques at hands-on weaving stations.

The museum's "animal component" has vastly improved its habitat displays, from desert and riparian to urban environments. Other new attractions include a STEM lab with education tools for kids. In addition, an elevator has been installed to comply with ADA requirements. Cafe Josephine, a new amenity will open in the near future. Special weekend basket making workshops will be scheduled with Julia Parker and members of the Parker family. To find out more visit [www.randallmuseum.org](http://www.randallmuseum.org). Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday from 10-5. As always, admission is free.

—Lena Emmery

## Postal Chase Revives Sign

The familiar sign over the entry to Postal Chase was showing signs of age but owner Mario Mogannam was told by city officials that, under current code, he could not replace a sign that large.



Recently his problem was solved when he found an artist willing to repaint the vintage sign line for line. A boost for Cole Street.

## Neighbors Use Go Fund Me For Daughter of Shrader Cleaner

Earlier this year, the owner of Shrader Cleaners, Tang Huynh, died of a sudden heart attack. He was a devoted husband and father, and ran Shrader Cleaners (Waller and Shrader streets). Tang touched us all with his open smile and positive outlook on life.

As a community, we want to help this family raise money for his daughter, Alisha, who is a sophomore at University of California Riv-



Photo: gofundme.com/shrader-cleaners-alisha

*Alisha and her mother Maggie Huynh are grateful to their neighbors.*

erside. Alisha needed to stay home the Fall semester to help Maggie, her mother, run Shrader Cleaners. She wants to return to school, but needs our help to cover tuition, books and living expenses. Alisha took introductory biology, and wants to explore medicine

Tang and Maggie imparted many lessons to their daughter. Perhaps the most significant one, that Alisha thinks about every day, is that through failure one finds success. As Tang said, "Life is all about trial and error, and it's the mistakes which make you wiser." Based on this, Alisha always thinks about experimenting, learning from failure, and keeping the right frame of mind.

The fund will be allocated as follows: Tuition (\$6,000 per/quarter), Groceries (\$200 per/month), Textbooks (\$550- \$600 per/quarter), Living (\$1000 per/month). This was a major tragedy for Alisha and Maggie. As a community, we want to support them and get Alisha back to school. To donate, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/shrader-cleaners-alisha>.

—*Oliver Hack, Heidi Hartsough, Betsy Crain, Ellen Conant and Ron Fortgang.*

## Postscripts

With the passage of last year's Prop E, the city has now taken over **care and maintenance costs** for all established street trees (and repair of side-



walks damaged by trees), but many homeowners still haven't heard. **Friends of the Urban Forest** director **Dan Flannigan** reports that many property owners have recently opted out of having free street trees planted adjacent to their properties because of perceived maintenance costs.

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Hoodline.com ace reporter Camden Avery wrote (1/25/18) that the city's **Office of Cannabis** has designated two zones along the Haight's business corridor where retail cannabis sales would be allowed with a conditional use permit—Haight Street between Clayton and Cole and



Stanyan Street between Waller and Beulah. Because Supervisors also created a 600-foot buffer between dispensaries, it's likely that each approved zone could accommodate only one dis-

pensary before maxing out density limitations. Even though there are several vacant storefronts in the neighborhood the distribution and sale of marijuana is still illegal under federal law, landlords could face penalties for renting to dispensaries, including jail time and property forfeiture.

\*\*\*

**Two men were shot** on February 16 at **Oak and Stanyan** in the midst of the homebound commuter traffic. The shooter then used the gun to carjack a silver Toyota and fled. One of the victims died from his injuries while the other was transported to the hospital in life-threatening condition. At 2 a.m. the police located the car on Alameda near De Haro behind a recreational vehicle with four people in it. Police ordered them out of the camper. Three people responded but the fourth refused. During the standoff that followed, a police officer discharged his gun into the RV after which the suspect exited unharmed. He was taken to SF General for examination and then released to the police.

\*\*\*

Even Cole Valley isn't as safe as some think. Thanks to Walter Thompson of Hoodline.com, we know that, in December, **two women were held up** by armed robbers on **Waller and Cole**. The suspect, described as 25 to 30 years old, got out of a vehicle and approached the women before aiming a handgun in their direction and demanding their property. After



the victims handed over their phones, wallet and a purse, the thieves fled west on Waller Street in their car. The following month, the *Bay City News* reported a stabbing on the 800 block of Cole Street. The 28-year-old victim got into a fight with

another man shortly after 11 p.m. The victim was taken to a hospital with life-threatening injuries. Officers in the area were able to locate a male suspect nearby.

—*Karen Crommie*

# Letters

Dear CVIA

I am sending you an abbreviated version of a letter I sent to the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development in November explaining why I was opposed to the purchase of 730 Stanyan Street. As you know, that ship has passed, and the \$15 million purchase is now a reality. The only information being given is that the goal is to use the property for “affordable housing.” I have some serious considerations about this project based on the following:

1. The proposed five (or seven) story structure is inconsistent with the height/density zoning of the neighborhood.

2. The indication that the use will be for “affordable housing” is so unclear as to be useless for any analysis. I would personally support the project if “affordable housing” means that units will be offered to all four of the income levels established in the Regional Housing Need Determination from the California Department of Housing and Community Development. That is, I am OPPOSED to any project that only allocates units to the “very low” category. What the local community needs is affordable housing, not only for the lowest income members, but also for blue-collar workers, including teachers, office workers, etc.

3. At the maximum density proposed, there will be 186 units, which will result in at least 372 new residents (based on a conservative estimate of an average of only 2 occupants per unit), 372 new residents will tax general services, transportation, parking and generally make the area more crowded. As the plan stands now, there is no accommodation for parking; even if only 25 percent of the residents have cars, that will add another 93 cars to the neighborhood.

4. I personally am not confident that the City can, or will, construct an attractive building or buildings on the site. What I fear is a building like the Willie B. Kennedy Apartments on Turk Street, which is wholly out of character with the neighborhood. Such a building at this location would oppressively overlook the main pedestrian entrance to Golden Gate Park.

5. There has been reference to placing social services assisting transient youth and safe injection on the ground floor. Neither of these uses, as well as anything similar, is appropriate for a family facility where children and going and playing.

Yes, I welcome the departure of McDonald’s—it is a blight on the neighborhood. But to replace it with a bigger blight, makes no sense. I would support an option with a projected smaller footprint, no higher than 3 stories plus ground floor (the area norm); occupancy by tenants with mixed income levels; and development of no more than 30 - 40 units.

Robert Weaver

# Help

**Emergency .....911**  
**Disturbance .....415-553-0123**  
**Blocked Driveways.....415-553-1200**  
**Abandoned Vehicles .....415-781-5865**  
**Health Department .....415-255-3610**  
**Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.) .....311**  
**Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal .....311**  
**NextBus .....311**  
**Street Lighting .....415-554-0730**

**Interim Mayor Mark Farrell .....415-554-6141**  
 City Hall - Room 200  
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
 S.F., CA 94102

**Chief of Police William “Bill” Scott .....415-553-1551**  
 SFPD  
 1245 Third Street  
 S.F., CA 94158

**District Attorney George Gascón .....415-553-1741**  
 Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.  
 S.F., CA 94103

**Captain Una Bailey .....415-242-3000**  
 Park District Police Station  
 1899 Waller St.  
 S.F., CA 94117  
 Una.Bailey@sfgov.org

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

**Telephone: 415-554-5184 FAX: 415-554-5163**

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3. Aaron Peskin Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org	415-554-7450
4. Katy Tang Katy.Tang@sfgov.org	415-554-7460
<b>5. London Breed, Board President</b> London.Breed@sfgov.org	<b>415-554-7630</b>
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7. Norman Yee Norman.Yee@sfgov.org	415-554-6516
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10. Malia Cohen Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org	415-554-7670
11. Ahsha Safai Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org	415-554-6975

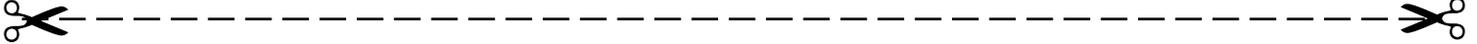
*CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Summer edition should be sent before May 1, 2018 to CVIASF@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 415-431-1414.*

*Editor .....Karen Crommie*  
*Production.....David Crommie*  
*Editorial Assistance .....Joan Downey*

## BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Membership in the Cole Valley Improvement Association is open to anyone interested in the greater Haight Ashbury. CVIA's mission is to promote a sense of responsibility and mutual respect throughout the district; preserve the character of its architecture; support the police in law enforcement efforts; encourage neighborhood-serving business; and be constructively involved in San Francisco's governmental process. Annual dues are \$25.00. Membership provides contact with other responsible neighbors, a quarterly newsletter and participation in an active forum for effecting change. If you would like to become a member, please send in your dues with the form below.

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



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

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

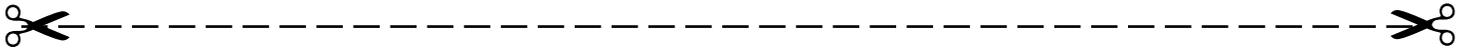
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

What I like about the neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

What I dislike about the neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



**Cole Valley Improvement Association**

**P.O. Box 170611**

**San Francisco, CA 94117**

**Reminder:**

CVIA Members get 50%  
off on membership and  
fitness classes at Lavation  
Studio.

784 Stanyan Street