

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXXII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SUMMER 2018

## CVIA - Investing in Youth

On April 5, CVIA Board members presented Christian Calinsky, the Executive Director and co-founder of Taking It To The Streets SF, with a check for \$1,000 in support of his work helping local young people move beyond homelessness. In addition, CVIA donated two Cole Hardware gift cards, to be used as needed by the organization.

Taking It To The Streets SF, a Haight Street-based organization, offers training, jobs, counseling, housing and other support services to homeless youth aged 18-27. In exchange, the program participants provide street



CVIA President Cathy Haller presents a check to co-founder Christian Calinsky for Taking It To The Streets SF, provider of youth work/housing.

sweeping and graffiti removal services in the Haight Ashbury and Cole Valley neighborhoods. Presently, Taking It To The Streets SF provides housing for approximately 60 people. For more information, please see the organization's website, [www.takingittothestreetssf.org](http://www.takingittothestreetssf.org).

## McDonald's Site Appears to Be All Things to All People

Meetings abound! As if there aren't enough neighborhood factions, two newly minted groups have joined ranks with the four existing neighborhood organizations, stoutly attempting to capture hearts and minds over the fate of what will soon be a 38,000 sq. ft. empty lot on Stanyan.

The "Haight Ashbury Neighbors for Density" and "The Coalition for a Complete Community at 730 Stanyan Street," and the older, "Yes, In My Backyard" each have their own agenda, The first and last have a mandate to build as high and dense a building as possible on the site (think 85 feet tall with as many as 300 tenants.)

The second group is concentrating on the use of the site during the interim period (estimated at 3-5 years) for a variety of publicly and privately financed services for homeless youth, indigent park-dwellers, those transitioning out of foster care, seniors, and so forth.

Since the battle over density is somewhat down the line, interim use is the major issue at this time. In the name of a "community-based planning process," the City held its first official meeting on Interim Use at the Park Branch Library on April 26.

### But Wait...Let's Go Back a Night

The night before, HANC board members and Haight service providers held a preemptory meeting at the Waller Center attracting a full crowd—at least half of them service providers. After breaking up



Service providers are in fierce competition for interim use of the site. into groups and letting people blow off steam in demanding everything from hot showers and caseworkers, to a "family kitchen," garden, farm, beer garden, classes, etc. It began to sound less about a vacant lot and temporary use but rather, a new state-of-the-art, 24-hour fully equipped homeless drop-in center.

It took Samantha Roxas, London Breed's legislative aide, to remind the crowd that, however the space was utilized, it had to be self-generating. In other words, after paying out the \$15.5 million for

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the site, the City is unwilling to invest any more money. In fact, the city would prefer to use the empty lot as a staging area for the upcoming major reconfiguring of the Haight Ashbury commercial corridor, which sounds like a reasonable request.

The meeting ended with the four focus groups, to which we had been divided, coming together only to hear his grey eminence Calvin Welch summarizing “what we all agree on,” although we were not given the option to vote. According to him, we all “agreed” that the space would not become a staging center, nor would it remain empty but rather a place for “temporary services that would bring in the general population of residents.” What this meant was revealed the following night at the Library.

### **Next Night: City’s First Official Meeting on Interim Use**

The community room of the Park Branch Library was packed. Counting each person as they entered the room, librarian Darice Murray-McKay announced, “That’s it. We’ve reached our legal maximum of 99 people,” citing SF Fire Department rules. Scores of latecomers, confined to standing in the vestibule, strained their necks to hear the proceedings inside.

The meeting was introduced by the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) director Kate Hartley, who reminded us of the purpose of the gathering: interim use of 730 Stanyan



*MOHCD Director Kate Hartley reviews the parameters of the project.*

after the demolition of the former McDonald’s building. She then introduced a skilled facilitator hired for the evening who quickly established authority over the potentially fractious crowd. What a difference from the free-for-all the night before.

### **Why This Meeting Worked Better Than Most**

This is how she did it: first she invited the audience to yell out, one at a time, the interim use they preferred. The results ranged predictably from the sublime to the ridiculous. But, unbelievably, we all got some measure of satisfaction right off the bat as she repeated each suggestion aloud in an affirmative tone and immediately stopped those who talked longer than 10 seconds.

That done, it was time for Hartley to again remind the audience of some hard facts: The building had to be demolished immediately for the planning process to begin. The city is faced with a huge empty space quickly susceptible to negative behavior unless temporary use is professionally managed by somebody. The City will provide some security but nothing else. Repeating the admonition of Breed aide Samantha Roxas of the previous meeting, she emphasized that any project on the premises must be self-sustaining.

With that, people were invited to line up at microphones on each side of the room for the opportunity to give a 2 minute pitch for their best idea. There was much talk about the needs of the TAY population (Transitional-Age Youth), characterized as young people who have been in foster care but who have outgrown their eligibility for subsidized housing or, as one person put it, “out of school and out of work.” As happened the night before, the suggestions were mostly pie-in-the-sky and far beyond the financial capabilities of those describing them. Come to think of it, there wasn’t a social ill imaginable that couldn’t be

addressed by a space on the Stanyan Street lot. Oddly, there was less support for a Navigation Center, which had been suggested by London Breed’s office early on. Why? Perhaps it was because the non-profit service providers feared they would be cut out of the action if the City took over the space.

Carole Glosenger and Steven Madrid both spoke articulately in favor of CVIA’s recommendation of outdoor “pop-ups,” such as is currently operating on Octavia Boulevard (which, by the way, is also an interim location awaiting affordable housing) with employment opportunities for eligible street youth. This would be overseen by PROXY or some other reputable site manager.

### **The Big Difference In the Two Meetings**

This time the Haight Street business owners attended. As various merchants took the mic, most notably Sunny Powers, they cited empty storefronts on Haight Street, feeling such pop-up businesses would not help. They failed to understand, however, that having thousands of dollars to enter a lease for a Haight Street storefront is quite different from offering a chance to a starting business operating out of a container shell.

That said, several merchants spoke quite effectively about a downturn in business which led to Joe Goldmark of Amoeba Records making a forceful case for a temporary parking lot. The advantage of this, apart from accommodating Haight Street tourists, is that it is self-generating (earning money), can be erected immediately, and also makes space available for use as a staging site during the upcoming reconfiguring of Haight Street. (Remember, the latter was the City’s choice.)

There is an urgency to make these decisions. Demolition is scheduled for June. No matter what eventually goes in, it has to be subject to a contract with the City for overall management. Let the games begin.

—Karen Crommie

## **Klosterman Back at Booksmith**

The paperback release of “X: A Highly Specific, Defiantly Incomplete History of the Early 21st Century” brings the talented Chuck Klosterman back to the Booksmith (1644 Haight St.) for a reading/signing on May 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Klosterman has created an incomparable body of work in books, magazines, newspapers, and on the Web. His writing spans the realms of culture and sports, while also addressing interpersonal issues, social quandaries, and ethical boundaries. He has written nine previous books, helped found and establish Grantland, served as the New York Times Magazine Ethicist, worked on film and television productions, and contributed profiles and essays to outlets such as GQ, Esquire, Billboard, The A.V. Club, and The Guardian.



*Author and essayist Chuck Klosterman*

Klosterman’s tenth book (aka Chuck Klosterman X) collects his most intriguing of those pieces, accompanied by fresh introductions and new footnotes throughout. He presents many of the articles in their original form, featuring previously unpublished passages and digressions. Subjects include Breaking Bad, Lou Reed, zombies, KISS, Jimmy Page, Stephen Malkmus, steroids, Mountain Dew, Chinese Democracy, The Beatles, Jonathan Franzen, Taylor Swift, Tim Tebow, Kobe Bryant, Usain Bolt, Eddie Van Halen, Charlie Brown, the Cleveland Browns, and many more cultural figures and pop phenomena. This is a tour of the past decade from one of the sharpest and most prolific observers of our unusual times.

Please note: this event begins at 7 p.m. Seating is limited, and is first come, first served. If you would like to reserve a seat, please purchase a copy of “X.” Remember, 1 seat = 1 book.



## Thank You For Your Support



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only nine Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of Cole Street's business district this year, which costs CVIA \$936 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the "Santa on Cole" photo shoot. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity during the period April 30, 2017 to May 1, 2018. Please notify us if your name has inadvertently been omitted.

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

**Visionaries: (\$1,000):** Irv Govan and Les Silverman

**Benefactors (\$250 - \$500):** Lena Emmerly & Charles Canepa, Karen & David Crommie, Loic Nicolas, Abby & David Rumsey, Roger Soudah - Say Cheese

**Donors (\$100 - \$249):** Cecile & Jeff Bodington, Gina Centoni, Eugene Chen, Linda Coda, Kathryn Demas, Joan Downey, Sandra Norberg & Richard Drake, Linda Erkelens, Tresa & Jim Eyres, Marianne Hesse, Shannon & Chris Hoch, Linda C. Hothem, Lyn & Harold Isbell, Randy & Rich Lavinghouse, Jane & Michael Miller, Deborah Robbins & Henry Navas, Janan New, Catherine Covey & Thomas Ports, Joanne & Bill Prieur, Michael Rafferty, Robert G. Jones & John T. Smith, Michael J. Sullivan, Alexis Woods

**Contributors (\$50 - \$99):** Anonymous, Kathleen Bertram, Megan & Bruce Bourne, Joan K. Boyd, Elizabeth Corden, Claudia Scharff & Timothy Dunn, Joelle & Ralph Edler, Rita & Richard Felciano, Margaret & Russell Garvin, Kate Ditzler & Stuart Gasner, Mary & John Hooper, Jim Laufenberg, Margareta Ekblad & Vojtech Licko, Michelle & Wallace Lim, Bahereh & John Manning, John Priest, Juliet Pries - Ice Cream Bar, Ellen Rashbaum, Robin Ridgeway, Kendra & Billy Robins, Elaine Robinson, Susan & Steven Rosen, Beth & Rick Thurber, Jillian & Blake Tyrrell, William A. Villaroel, Ken Wilcox, Victoria Zaroff

**Supporters (\$25 - \$49):** Gail & Howard Berman, Sharon Birenbaum, Penny Duan & Steve Chaffin, Donna Cooper, Ellen Curry, Karin de Brer, Deb & Todd Frederick, Mari Coates & Gloria Galindo, Melissa & Glen Gee, Lauren Gunderson, Janet & Mark Hall, Jean Hayward, John Ignacio, Sarah & Neema Jalali, Catherine & Brian Kane, Lynn Kormondy, Judith Bishop & Robert Liner, Dennis Martino, Michael McCarthy, Barbara Mow, Robert Mullin, Thomas Nicoll, Robert Page, Jan Platt & Jeff Ross, Celia Price, Helen & Allan Ridley, MeMe Riordan, Benjamin Thompson, Conchita Toshok, Deborah Van Atta, Isabel Wade, Edward C. Walls, Mary Ann Wolcott

**Boosters (\$24 and below):** Anna Almborg, Anonymous, Molly Barry, Travis Becker, Chris Bunga, Cindy Roberts & Mike Burbank, David Burke, Mary Ann de Souza, Beverley Epstein, Allison Grass, Sareena Hirani, Maryann Hrichak, Corina Jordan, Jessica Lassere, Marie & Bruce Sampson, Isabel Greenfield & Dan Selvig, Diane & Bob Silver, Rita Veideman

## A CLEAN COLE STREET



### Our Neighborhood Heroes 2018 Merchant Participants

Bambinos, Cole Cleaners, Cole Hardware, Crepes on Cole, Finnigans Wake, Jerome's Antiques, Pacific American Group, \* Padrecito, Postal Chase.

\*Owners of 930 Cole Street (former Cole Garage)

## 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).



June 12, July 10, August 14  
**Mark Your Calendar**

**CVIA is on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/CVIASF](http://www.facebook.com/CVIASF)  
Please "like" us ASAP



## Haight Seniors Growing Strong

It's been nearly two years now—Haight Ashbury Seniors is flourishing, and the neighborhood now has "Adult" classes and movies (not that sort of "adult") at Park Branch Library.

Photo: LinkedIn.com



Casey Crumpacker, Adult Librarian, Park Branch, has had extensive experience in California's public libraries

SFPL did finally respond to my continuing pressure about the absence of community services in the Haight and we now have our own Adult Services Librarian, the very helpful Casey Crumpacker. Drop by and introduce yourselves, and your ideas. And don't forget to check out Park Branch's new monthly programming—everything from Bogart movies to Laughter Yoga to Indian Spices.

Meanwhile, Haight Ashbury Seniors continue to meet every third Tuesday. Our motto is "Building community one friendship at a time" and that is just what is happening.

Our gatherings are small, relaxed, with round table discussions.

Too often we can pass someone for thirty years without knowing them and, as one way of countering this isolation, I have harvested our own neighborhood for speakers. They have included medical heroes and poets, historians and storytellers. No politics! There has to be respite somewhere, especially in a neighborhood as politically engaged as ours.

So, anyone fifty and over, join us and join the conversation. Everyone is welcome.

—Cosi Pavalko

## Coming Events at the Park Branch Library

Adult Services Casey Crumpacker has announced two upcoming films he has scheduled in Park Branch's community room.

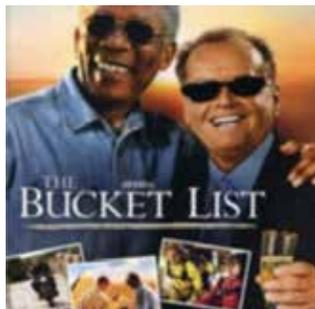
Wednesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. —"Woman on the Run"



Synopsis: After witnessing a murder, Frank Johnson goes on the run to avoid being killed himself. His wife, Eleanor (Ann Sheridan), seems almost apathetic about finding him when questioned by Investigator Harris (Robert Keith), due to a marriage on the rocks.

Saturday, May 26, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. —"The Bucket List"

Synopsis: American comedy-drama film directed by Rob Reiner, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman. The main plot follows two terminally ill men (portrayed by Nicholson and Freeman) on their road trip with a wish list of things to do before they "kick the bucket."



Wednesday, May 30, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Talk by Dr. Pat Denning "Harm Reduction - Over the Influence: The Harm Reduction Guide to Controlling Your Drug and Alcohol Use." This is a free talk for people who struggle with alcohol and drugs and for those who care for them and is based on Dr. Denning's book of the same name.

—Karen Crommie

## Another Neighborhood Character is Gone

Alembic's old customers are mourning the death of its founding bartender at the age of 42. This was not just any bartender. Daniel Hyatt was one of the first to concoct the artisan cocktails for which San



Daniel Hyatt was an inspired master of mixology

Francisco is now famous. SF Chronicle staff writers Esther Mobley and Paolo Lucchesi described his drink menu as, "... classic cocktails alongside nouveau libations that employed techniques and ingredients that were revolutionary at the time: house-made bitters, guar gum, fresh purees, even the occasional foam. He took inspiration from the Alembic kitchen, with his creations using non-traditional drink ingredients like cardamom, hop extracts and frankincense."

Owner Dave McLean hired him before Alembic had even opened, making him its bar manager. "For Daniel, it was always about more than the drinks themselves. He knew how to weave together the curation of the backbar and the creation of cocktails, but always with an eye toward the fact that we're here to make people's days better."

—Karen Crommie

## Weiner's Senate Bill SB827 Fails in Committee

For many months, resident organizations around the city, as well as the state have been fighting a bill in the California legislature overriding existing height restrictions from any building within a half-mile of public transit, which includes almost all of San Francisco.

Although the bill only prevents cities from denying a project due to height, neighbors were concerned that, combined with the Affordable Housing Density Bonus, there would be a rash of demolitions, loss of open space and historic sites, and massive tenant displacement. People all over the state organized—traveling in groups (even buses) to Sacramento to make their feelings clear. It worked. This time, the developers lost, as SB 827 was voted down in the Senate's Transportation and Housing Committee on April 17.



State Senator Scott Weiner will try again.

Senator Weiner says he will continue to work "with a broad range of voices" to improve the bill and present it again.

*Ed. note: The city of Paris, which has kept building heights to four or five floors ever since its redesign by Haussmann in the nineteenth century, approved higher structures in 2010 but only in the 13th arrondissement, where apartment buildings can go to 150 ft. and office buildings up to 590 feet. In subsequent years, several tall buildings have appeared in other districts.*

—Karen Crommie

## Capt. Bailey Meets With Board

Park Station's Captain Una Bailey accepted CVIA's invitation to address the board at its last meeting on May 7. She was accompanied by Officer Lily Prillinger, a popular longtime member of the Park Station force. As part of a status report, Captain Bailey gave the total number of Park Station police officers at a new high of 78, with the number of those assigned to footbeats and outreach (quality of life) to 22. The remaining officers are distributed between plain clothes, sector cars and administration duties. (There was only one outreach officer when she took the helm.) Park Station officers collaborate regularly with those of the Richmond Station and the Park Rangers to improve daily law enforcement of the "no camping" laws in Golden Gate Park.

In addition to an expansion in staff, Bailey attributes the recent downturn in crime to creating a "fixed post" on Stanyan and Haight and



Captain Una Bailey updates CVIA board members at the May meeting.

increasing traffic stops. Many cited for traffic violations have warrants from elsewhere and have come to the neighborhood to commit crime. She stressed the help received from surveillance videos supplied to the station by private individuals and how much the posting of No Trespassing signs (MPC 25) facilitates the removal of people from camping on private property. She has raised the number of citations issued by six fold because they serve as justification to a judge to issue Stay Away Orders.

When asked about the prospect of a Navigation Center on the McDonald's site, Captain Bailey said she doubted that the problems rampant before the demolition would be changed and, in fact, probably exacerbated. She encouraged CVIA and all other residents to express their feelings directly to Supervisor Breed and also not to hold back from "telling your own story" at the next meeting (May 17).

—Karen Crommie

### Call for News

We need news items, articles, letters, opinion pieces. Please tell us what you know about Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury: handwritten, type-written, e-mailed or scrawled on a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! Send your submissions to [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com)



## 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.

## Norman Larson

September 8, 1938 - February 20, 2018

The Haight Ashbury mourned the death of Norm Larson who died on February 20, at the age of 79, from complications of an earlier stroke. Norm owned several large buildings in the neighborhood—most notably the historic white frame building on the northwest corner of Haight and Ashbury, which was his home. A high school valedictorian, he received a full academic scholarship to Stanford. He subsequently earned a law degree from Harvard. After trying different careers, he eventually found satisfying work owning and managing rental property. His untrimmed beard and simple clothing belied the refinement of his tastes, which ranged from the opera and symphony to his main passion and philanthropy, the SF Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Active in the Log Cabin Club, he was at heart a progressive but, around property rights, a staunch conservative. (And, note, he was not above the occasional stop at a bear bar.)

## Tribute to Norman Larson

The SF Heritage Foundation (SFHF) hosted a reception honoring the life of Norman Larson on March 31 at The Bindery. The room was packed with San Franciscans from all areas of his interests and of sharply contrasting political stripes. The hors d'oeuvres were plentiful and Booksmith and Bindery owner Christin Evans, who was generously volunteering,



Photos of Norman's life were projected during the eulogies.

could hardly keep up with the demand for wine. No one would have enjoyed it as much as Norm. Nancy Gille, president of SFHF's board of directors, gave the introductory remarks and welcome. Eulogies were then delivered by his friend Adrian Card (noted historic painter-decorator) and his nephew, Dennis Larson. There were spell-binding harpsichord performances by Heidi Waterman and Nic McGegan. The climax of the celebration was the ceremonious unveiling of the official Doolan-Larson Residence brass plaque, SF Landmark #253, by SFHF president and CEO Mike Buhler. The final toast was "to a life well lived!" As the crowd disbursed, everyone was painfully aware that a rare San Francisco bird had flown its nest.

—Karen Crommie

## Second Meeting on BV Park “Green Benefit District”

Neighbors are invited to participate in a second community meeting at the Randall Museum on June 11 to continue discussing the proposed Green Benefit District (GBD) encompassing streets around Buena Vista Park and Corona Heights. Representatives of the SF Department of Public Works will facilitate the discussion.

This will follow up on a contentious first meeting that raised issues of taxing equality, redundancy of present city-paid gardening service,



*Some neighbors are concerned that the GBD will undermine the Park's long-standing volunteer planting and maintenance programs.*

complexity of bureaucratic red tape, selection of board of directors and possible prolonged neighborhood acrimony.

The plan would operate like the Community Benefit Districts now existing in 13 different neighborhoods, which vary both in terms of services and annual budget. Each Green Benefit District is governed by an independent property owners' nonprofit association, representative of the neighborhood and administered by an executive director, who is hired by the GBD's board of directors.

Green Benefit Districts differ from their predecessors in that they are limited to providing maintenance and capital improvements only to parks, sidewalks and open spaces within a designated area—in this case, the area bounded by Clayton, Page, Divisadero/Castro, and 17th streets.



*Isabel Wade*

Local property owners would pay a yearly assessment to fund the district. Individual assessments are calculated according to the size of each parcel. According to organizer Isabel Wade, in an earlier CVIA News article, the cost is “typically less than a dollar per day. The goal is to augment existing city services, not replace them.”

The second community meeting will take place on June 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way (with access via Frederick Street).

—Karen Crommie

### Park Branch Library Open Hours

(1833 Page Street)

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

## HANC and CVIA in Agreement on 730 Stanyan Density, Almost

The Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC) released a public letter in late December laying out its support for the McDonald's affordable housing project, in general, but voiced concern that a 65-foot, 7-story-tall development (186 units) would “substantially change the character of the area due to height and bulk.”

Examiner reporter Joe Fitzgerald Rodriguez quoted HANC's Housing and Land Use chair, Rupert Clayton, as saying, “HANC supports maximizing the amount of affordable housing constructed in our neighborhood, but only where this is appropriately balanced with preserving the neighborhood's character and environmental quality.” (Note: Whereas CVIA has advocated a 40-foot height limit, HANC has gone to 50 feet—approximately 126 units).

In the meantime, “Yes in My Backyard” founder Laura Clark described opponents to maximum density like this, “It's outrageous that we let neighborhood busybodies chip away at affordable housing,” she told Rodriguez. “We lose units and make affordable housing more expensive when we allow wealthy, well-connected and obsessive people to abuse a complicated process. What is ‘neighborhood character’? And what does ten additional feet do that destroys it?” she asked. “They can't see how ridiculous it is.”

So, let's get this right, if you oppose a maximum build out of this enormous 38,000 square lot (think USF's Gleeson Library) across from Golden Gate Park, we are wealthy, well-connected busybodies.” Thanks, Laura.

—Karen Crommie

## Steven Madrid Joins CVIA Board

On May 7, the board of directors waved a one-year membership requirement in order to welcome Steven Madrid to the board. His recent even-handed advocacy for a commercial solution (pop-up gathering place) to activate the McDonald's site during the 3-5 year pre-construction interim has deeply impressed those who are fighting for a cleaner, safer neighborhood.



*Madrid is a corporate counsel with Gil-eed Sciences and resident of Cole Valley.*

## SAVE THE DATE! CVIA Summer Social August 18

Please join us at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 18 at the Kezar Bar & Restaurant on the corner of Cole and Carl streets. Beer, wine and food are included in the \$10 per person entry fee. Members only (but your guests are welcome).

## Waller Center Update

The Waller Center advisory committee met on March 28 in order to discuss their current operations and consider future ideas for building uses.

One of their main endeavors is an urban retreat center in which high school and college students live in the facility, while doing volunteer work in San Francisco. Volunteers come from as far away as West Virginia, Texas and New York. The majority of the volunteers coming during spring vacation are from various colleges, while youth groups tend to come more during the summer months.

Their food pantry serves approximately 200 people every Saturday between 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. While people receiving the free food do not have to show proof of financial need, they do have to have proof of residency. Most of the recipients are single and between the ages of 20 and 70 and are on a fixed income. Many are of Russian and Asian descent and tend to come toward the end of the month when finances are tighter.

At one point, when the food pantry had fewer clients, they had to purchase the food that they distributed. Now, food is contributed allowing them to purchase other items, such as cooking oil, in order to give their recipients more choices. They also get donations from Whole Foods and Trader Joe's and whatever leftovers they have, they distribute to other organizations such as Taking It to the Streets.



After being completely "wrapped" for many weeks during refurbishment, neighbors were surprised and pleased to see the new exterior emerge in shades of blue-green, reflecting the historic pallet.

Other uses for the building include occasional day meeting use, a convenient polling place for neighbors in both June and November, a potential evacuation center in the case of an emergency and it is occasionally used by both AmeriCorps and the scouts. Lycée Français de San Francisco uses the gym on weekday and another school hopes to use it in the future as well.

With the closing and sale of St. John's Methodist Church, (Larkin and Clay) a portion of those funds were granted to the Waller Center for renovations, which began in September of 2017. Great care was taken in attempting to match the colors on the outside of the building to what would have been appropriate in the 20s or 30s. Windows were beautifully framed and when the scaffolding came down (they were approximately two weeks behind schedule due to recent torrential rains), I think the neighborhood is quite impressed with the results. With the outside of the building almost done, they hope to have enough money

left over to pave the parking lot, remove the chain link fence and replace it with something both more lasting and appealing.

Their future hopes for the building include heat and lighting in the chapel, which is purported to have great acoustics, gender neutral bathrooms and an elevator which will connect the first and second floors.

Uses of the building could be expanded to include musical performances and/or weddings in the chapel, ongoing classes such as dance workshops, classes for seniors and children and possibly classes on horticulture, CPR, self-defense, yoga and meditation and perhaps occasional visits from a mobile veterinarian in order for neighborhood dogs to be more easily vaccinated.

With the exterior improvements near completion, the Waller Center has the potential to become more welcoming and a vital component of the neighborhood.

—Marianne Hesse



Waller Center Director, Maggie Lohmeyer

## Booksmith Joins Two Sisters

The Booksmith announced a new partnership with the team behind the popular Two Sisters Bar and Books (formerly of Hayes Valley) to assume management of The Alembic at 1725 Haight.

Dave McLean, owner of Magnolia Gastropub and Brewery, opened The Alembic in 2006. A couple of years ago, while Magnolia was sorting through bankruptcy proceedings, McLean became a minority owner of The Alembic and landlords Jack and Betsy Rix took over management of the restaurant.

Alembic is located next door to the Booksmith's auxiliary store, The Bindery, whose rear space is conjoined with Alembic and with whom they share a liquor license. This partnership will expand their space, not only for book-related events, but also for a wide range of community gatherings.

When Booksmith assumed the lease on The Bindery (1727 Haight) Christin Evans and partner Praveen Madan expressed interest in also assuming the lease and management of The Alembic. Writes Evans, "What we needed to make that happen was the food and craft cocktail expertise that we've found with Two Sisters' Mikha Diaz and her team



The Alembic is set to reopen later this month under new management.

of Kat, Brandon and Chef Dillon. I've really enjoyed working with them all during these past several months of planning and I think you'll agree they are thoughtful, community-minded folks."

Last month Evans closed The Alembic during some needed renovations (including HVAC work) and plans to re-open in May with a "refreshed" menu. There are plans to re-start the weekend brunch service for two months during the summer.

—Karen Crommie

## CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last three months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. There is no meeting in December. Call 415-431-1414 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), Waller Center Advisory Board (WCAB).

### March

Location: Home of Karen and David Crommie—March 5, 2018 - 7 p.m. Guest: Judge Jeffrey S. Ross and Jan Platt.

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$40,236.56 out of which \$8,640.78 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$15,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. She said that the last group of new members had joined on line using PayPal and that emailing a confirmation in lieu of the usual letter could simplify the process. Decision tabled until Lena Emmery could be consulted.

■ President Cathy Haller reported an emergency meeting held by Supervisor London Breed after the double shooting in the Panhandle and also the three drug addicts found dead near Urban School. There were comments by SFPD Chief Bill Scott, Jeff Kositsky, Department of Homeless and Supportive Housing, Park Station Captain Una Bailey, Commander David Lazar and others. All stressed the difficulty of a situation motivated complex factors of drug abuse, homelessness, mental illness and criminality. Many solutions were suggested but ended with assigning more beat cops to Haight Street and meetings at Park Station staff discussing challenges of each previous day and strategies for the upcoming one.

■ Discussed the coverage of 730 Stanyan over the last month including the 29 letters received by Eugene Flannery, MOHCD environmental compliance manager, regarding a “no impact” designation of a five to seven story building on the site. Among serious letters were ten very short ones expressing the same enthusiasm for maximum density and “7 stories.” Carole Glosenger reported that officials are telling her it is not yet a “done deal” as the HUD funds have not been allocated and no architect or construction company has been engaged. Public meeting cannot proceed until that time.

■ CSFN rep Karen Crommie described a long discussion about SB 827, allowing new housing near major transit corridors to be four stories. This further implements last year’s SB35 that mandated municipalities to build more housing or risk temporarily losing control of much of their entitlements process. SB827 will radically increase density in San Francisco’s neighborhoods. She also reported on presentations by Brian Strong (Office of Resilience) and Rod Iwashita from the Port of SF, both of whom will be asking for bond money in the November election there will be a change of date for the March CSFN meeting for which CVIA is hosting (providing refreshments) will now be on March 7. June ballot measures will be discussed including, use of tasers, affordable housing, free legal service for evictions, parcel tax for teachers, raising bridge tolls.

■ Motion approved to send a letter to State Senator Scott Weiner in support of SB916 (amending Section 459 of the penal code) expanding the definition of a crime in cases of auto boosting. Copy to Mayor Mark Farrell.

■ Joan reported on a person having set up home base in the doorway

of Jerome’s Antiques and refusing to move when Jerome wants to open the store. President Cathy Haller witnessed the situation and reported it to the Police.

■ Judge Jeffrey S. Ross spoke on behalf of the four SF Supreme Court Judges who are being challenged by four attorneys from the Public Defender’s Office. Thirteen judges are up for reelection this year (6-year term). Ross characterized them as the four hardest working judges on the bench and made a strong case for maintaining them in their present roles.

Adjournment 9:30 p.m.

### April

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa—April 2, 2018 - 7 p.m. Guest: Steven Madrid

■ Treasurer Joan Downey reported a bank balance of \$55,119.37 out of which \$12,707.55 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$25,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet. She also said that the last group of new members had joined on line using PayPal and there was consensus that acknowledgement could more easily be made by emailing a confirmation in lieu of the usual letter. Lena to send Joan the letter sent to (mail-in) new members for her use in an email acknowledgment. Six Cole Street merchants have subscribed to Clean Cole Street so far; four more are expected to join them.

■ In Joan’s absence during the month of May, Karen Crommie will collect the mail and deposit the checks. David will update members’ renewal dates on their address labels. Joan will provide a list of renewing Lavation members and delete those failing to renew after one quarter.

■ Marianne Hesse, who has joined the advisory board of the Waller Center, reported on their last meeting. (See article on page 7) In a discussion of possible neighborhood uses for the facility, Steven Madrid suggested a return of the Haight Farmers’ Market.

■ Motion to contribute \$1,000 to Take It To The Streets, youth work program. And to also donate benefits from Cole Hardware’s Community Partners Assistance Program, which has funneled 10 percent of members’ purchases to CVIA (amounting to approximately \$200 last year) to the same organization to spend on needed materials.

■ Steve Madrid gave us an update on his campaign to improve safety in the greater Haight Ashbury. He is working to assemble a group of stakeholders who want specific upgrades. These have been incorporated into the following motions:

■ Motion approved to ask appropriate city departments to take a new look at improving the greater Haight Ashbury by 1) completing the universal posting of No Trespassing (NPC 25) signs in neighborhood businesses (permitting police to remove those blocking entrances) and making sure officers enforce them without having to be called, 2) installing surveillance cameras in the Alford Lake area, 3) providing stronger lighting in the Panhandle, 4) making more use of Stay Away Orders for the neighborhood’s repeat offenders by the Deputy DA assigned to Park Station. Letter to be drafted by Karen Crommie and distributed to board members for approval.

■ Motion approved to send a letter to the Planning Dept. and Supervisor Breed to begin the process of lifting the present cap on new restaurants in the Haight Ashbury commercial district (of which Cole Valley is part) in order to have more activity on the street at night. Other recipients would be D.A. George Gascon, and SF Police Chief William Scott.

■ Motion approved to engage CVIA members by providing text supporting the above three actions and asking them to forward an email copy to appropriate officials. Each text would be introduced (to the CVIA member) with the same preamble such as, “Get Involved – This is Just the Beginning. You don’t have to attend a meeting just help us improve our neighborhood.” Each brief message on the three different

topics would be sent at one week intervals in the following order 1) supporting CVIA's vision of 730 Stanyan 2) a 'New Approach for Safety and Livability in the Haight,' and 3) a recommendation to lift the cap on new restaurants with the aim of getting more night time activity on neighborhood streets for increased safety. Carole to draft 730 Stanyan letter and Karen to draft remaining two.

■ Carole reported on a meeting held March 27 at the Park Branch Library by a group called "Haight Ashbury Neighbors for Density" (HAND) headed by Corey Smith, who strongly advocated maximum infill for the neighborhood and seem uninformed about historical preservation or neighborhood character. The small group appears to be specially formed to push for the largest possible housing project on the site of the former McDonald's at the corner of Haight and Stanyan.

■ David Crommie gave a report on the movement to resist the Ford Go-Bike installation of 17 rental bikes on Ashbury between Haight and Page. The project is presently on hold until the Haight Ashbury Public Realm work is completed next year but will be resumed at that time.

■ Agreed that Joan Downey would forward any correspondence she receives from the city's Office of Small Business to Cole Valley merchants.

■ Discussed topics for discussion with Park Station Captain Una Bailey, who will attend the May meeting of the board. They included: enforcement of No Trespassing signs, foot patrols in Cole Valley at night and especially in the Muni Park, encouragement of DA Stay Away Orders for the neighborhood's repeat offenders.

■ Cathy Haller announced that she will be unable to run for a second term in office and that the board should start looking for the next president. The board was disappointed to lose her strong and sensitive leadership but will look for her successor.

■ The next meeting on May 7 will be held at the home of Marianne Hesse.

Adjournment at 9:40 p.m.

## May

Location: Home of Marianne Hesse—May 7, 2018 - 7 p.m. Guests: Captain Una Bailey, Officer Lily Prillinger, Steven Madrid, Terry Casey

■ Treasurer Joan Downey submitted the April accounting showing a bank balance of \$53,033.54 out of which \$12,218.47 is being presently held in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$24,767.20 is being held in the account (as fiscal sponsor) for the Stanyan Parklet.

■ Amy Blakeley gave notice of her withdrawal from the CVIA board after many years of diligent service as webmaster, community relations, and sage political analyst. Even after her move to Marin County she kept working tirelessly for the organization. She will be deeply missed at our board meetings. Redistributing her jobs will be discussed at the June meeting.

■ Marianne Hesse, member of the Waller Center Advisory Board, reported on a request from director Maggie Lohmeyer for a letter of support for their contribution to the community. Marianne to draft the letter citing facility tours, hosting community meetings including a CVIA forum on public utilities, massive upgrade of the building, and repeated outreach to the community to make use of the Center. Marianne also reported that Waller Center plans to have occasional veterinary service for dogs of transient people.

■ Lena presented a new, hopefully more efficient email/letter writing system for CVIA correspondence. Instead of sending drafts of letters/emails to the entire board and waiting for online feedback, we will agree on main points at the board meeting. One board member will write the letter/email with another board member backing her/him up to make sure the needed information is included. The letter/email will then be sent out without going through the online board review process.

■ Captain Una Bailey gave an update on crime and law enforcement

in the Park Station District. (See article on page 5.)

■ Steven Madrid reported on his continuing outreach to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to advocate for a public space with pop-up vendors as the interim use of 730 Stanyan. He notes the hypocrisy in buying a building to solve the problem of chronic drug abuse and street lounging only to install social services (or a 24-hour "open door" facility) that would almost guarantee the very same thing. He restated his desire for the city to issue an RFP for management and development of a temporary mixed-use area giving opportunity to small entrepreneurs. In a meeting scheduled the following day, he intends to stress the massive renovation projects planned for both Stanyan (Alvord Lake Area) and Haight streets over the next two years and how disruptive this will be to Haight merchants. The presence of a Navigation Center at the same time might be the final straw for the neighborhood. He also wants to impress upon them the exact nature of the Haight's indigent population. These are not the hardcore homeless, as is found elsewhere in the city, but rather transient youth. They will likely not be willing to go into a Navigation Center, which is servicing "hard-to-place" homeless people.

■ Agreed that urgent requests for endorsement or questions, will be decided by "the list" method that Cathy initiated last week. If an item needs immediate attention, the question will be stated with the list of board members below it. Board members just need to copy and paste the question and the list in a return email, write yes or no beside their name and send it. This is an attempt to make sure all voices of board members are heard.

■ Motion approved to reimburse Steven Madrid for any costs related to his presentation at the city's second meeting on the interim use of 730 Stanyan on May 17. (i.e., blow-up photos of PROXY projects.)

■ Motion approved unanimously to temporarily suspend bylaws requiring one-year membership in CVIA before eligibility for board.

■ Motion approved unanimously to add Steven Madrid to the CVIA board of directors.

■ President Cathy Haller distributed a sample letter to be emailed to CVIA members asking that they let city leaders know how they stand on social services on the Stanyan/Haight corner. It should also encourage attendance at the May 17 meeting with the admonition to arrive early.

■ Karen Crommie reported on the CSFN's positions on upcoming ballot measures and the effort of the Laurel Heights Neighborhood Association to landmark the Fireman's Fund building, owned by UCSF, in order to stop the leaseholder from developing housing with ground floor retail at the site.

■ Agreed: That each board member would contact MOHCD, expressing his/her own reasons for objecting to interim social services at the Haight-Stanyan corner, that we would ask Walter Thompson when his coverage of the issue would be posted, and encourage the Haight Ashbury Seniors to oppose social services for the interim.

Adjournment at 9:30 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, Steven Madrid, Edward Walls



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

## Postscripts

**Jennifer Piallat**, longtime owner of Cole Valley's **Zazie**, has completed her takeover of Calistoga Kitchen in Napa County. She and the staff of neighboring Calistoga business Sam's Social Club, took the reigns of the popular restaurant last fall, making gradual changes to the menu before closing in January to perform "a minor remodel." They reopened under the new name **Lovina** in honor of **Lovina Graves Cyrus**, a frontier woman of local lore.

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Just in: **Rec and Park** has been working with the city's **Department of Real Estate** to bring soccer to the soon to be vacant lot at 730 Stanyan Street (the former **McDonald's** site). They have found a non-profit group to fund this interim use that would ensure the operation would be self sustaining as required. (Park Station May Newsletter)

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**InoVino** owner **Claudio Villani** (he of unfailing charm and beautifully arched eyebrows) has sold the wine bar to friends **Kari and Francisco**, who will be keeping things as close as possible to Claudio's vision. Why did he abandon Cole Valley? He is raising his stakes in a bigger restaurant at 1328 Mason. He calls it **Alto Vino**. Good for him.

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The **Haight Street Fair's** 41st anniversary will take place on Sunday, June 10 and feature the usual booths with food, merchandise, and information on community programs. Two stages will be set up on opposite ends of Haight Street — one at Stanyan, the other at Masonic. Both will feature live music and entertainment from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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After 40 years, **Bruce Lyall** closed **Recycled Records** at 1377 Haight Street. He sold the building to **Borderlands Books** and has donated his valuable and eclectic stock of vinyl records to the **Internet Archive**, an online nonprofit digital library. They will be available to all on line at [archive.org](http://archive.org). Bruce says he

will still be around, so don't count him out quite yet.

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In February, owner **Vivian Walsh** changed the name of **Martin Mack's** (1568 Haight) to **HQ**. But after some pretty nasty reviews, the name was changed again last week. This time it's **Michael Collins**, after the Irish revolutionary who was shot and killed in an ambush in 1922, the same year the Irish Free State was established.



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Neighbors on 500 block of Ashbury Street have been trying to stop a fleet of **Ford Go-bikes** from being installed in front of four residential

homes. Getting three Haight organizations to come together on a joint position on this relatively simple issue has been challenging for organizer **Ethel Konopka**, but Supervisor Breed has postponed the project temporarily until bike rentals can be evaluated with relationship to the upcoming Haight Public Realm improvements.

—Karen Crommie

## Letters

Dear CVIA,

I emailed the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development regarding my negative view of any proposal to place a 'service center' (temporary or otherwise) for transient youth at the McDonald's site.

The eastern front line of Golden Gate Park has borne the brunt of the transient youth population for years and we have struggled in our efforts to restore, steward and "take back the Park."

Last week, the Rec and Park Commission, in a vote of 9-0, gave the final go ahead to the contract for the Oak Woodlands Nature Trail project that will provide a first class 0.8 mile trail through northeast Golden Gate Park and cover some landscape and habitat restoration as well as wayfaring signage. This is a major bond and philanthropic piece of recreational and public safety-oriented park infrastructure.

Part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail along this Oak Woodlands Trail has been ruined. The transient population has for years wreaked havoc in this area: camping, vandalizing, dumping garbage and creating public security issues. The trail and leveraged stewardship offers promise of great functional improvement. While recreating a magnet for transients at Haight and Stanyan, it would be counter productive and we are against it. We thank CVIA for taking a position against transient services at this Haight-Stanyan location.

Rob Bakewell

Dear Members:

I am a 44-year resident of the Haight Ashbury and saw the aftermath of the Summer of Love. Thousands of "hippies" invaded in 1967 and, at the end of the summer, most of them went somewhere else. Haight Street was left with boarded up storefronts and ruined homes. Alcoholics and drug addicts occupied the streets, and the Park.

In the early 70s, HUD came in and offered the Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RAP) to residents and buyers who would remodel the homes to bring them up to building safety codes. People were able to borrow money at low interest rates to repair plumbing, wiring, heating and other safety items. Neighbors started fixing up the Victorians. Small business people took courage from the development and opened new shops on Haight Street. Residents started coming back to Haight Street to shop.

Now the Haight Street stores are again having hard times. I know online shopping has taken its toll on retail business but I think the bands of transient youth are again claiming the street and are partly responsible for the downturn. Empty storefronts become sleeping accommodations.

McDonald's was a blight that everyone complained about. We were all happy when we heard the City bought the property for affordable housing. But now there is talk of installing a Navigation Center during the interim period before housing construction. There is a coalition of service providers who want to install a 24-hour drop-in center for transient youth, others who want a Navigation Center (for "hard to place" indigent people). With park camping rampant just across the street I can just imagine the online postings, "They give you food, clothes, showers, needles, everything! And it's right

across from the park!” Placing a transient-serving social service at that location would end up creating exactly the same problems that the closure of McDonald’s was supposed to resolve.

Rec & Park is currently redesigning the east entrance to the Park and adding petanque and bocce ball courts along with a refreshment stand in hopes of activating the area. HUD gave us the money to improve the neighborhood 50 years ago and HUD is giving us the money to improve it again. Let’s go forward with a project that all the residents of the neighborhood can benefit from.

Carole Glosenger  
CVIA Founding Member

**Bay to Breakers is Sunday May 20**  
Race starts at 8 a.m. from Howard and Main (access “corrals” on Stewart, Spear and Folsom). Sponsor is Alaska Airlines with registration online and an \$80 entry fee for adults.

**Visit our website at  
CVIASF.org**

*CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Fall edition should be sent before August 1, 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.*

*Editor .....Karen Crommie*  
*Production.....David Crommie*  
*Editorial Assistance .....Joan Downey, Cathy Haller*

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

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

# 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

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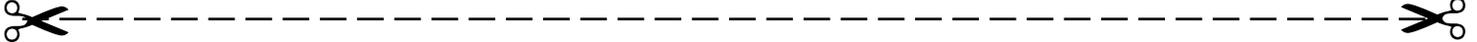
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11. Ahsha Safai Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org	415-554-6975

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

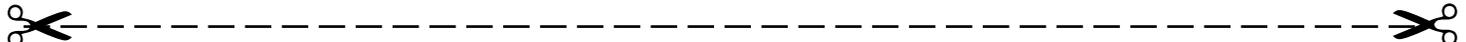
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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