

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIV SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY FALL 2011

Cole Fair Returns, Flags Flying

Sunday, September 25th — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Cole Valley Fair, renown among San Francisco street fairs for its appeal to families, is returning for its ninth year. Cole Street between Grattan and Carl will be lined with tented booths,



For one day a year, it's all about Cole Valley.

delicious food, beautiful crafts, some of the city's most popular musicians, political candidates working the crowd, pets vying for "smartest," and neighbors rediscovering each other. Everyone comes out on Fair Day.

The balloon artist Twee Twee is the hands-down favorite with the kindergarten set. In past years, one could find a circle of tykes sitting transfixed in their chairs long after the fair was technically over, awaiting their turn to experience the creation of a balloon animal especially for them. Also popular with the little ones is Buki the face-painting clown who will be returning for the fifth year. The big inflatable "jumpy house" always draws kids from 6 to 12, who line up over and over again for the privilege of falling every which way in a safe environment. As usual it will be skillfully monitored by volunteers from the Haight Ashbury Community Nursery School. Tree Frogs Treks (live reptiles) will have their own booth this year, while Midline, the new gym on Frederick, will be setting up a youth fitness event.

Continued on page 2, column 2.

Summer Social is August 27

This year's Summer Social and Annual Meeting will be held at the Kezar Bar (corner of Cole and Carl) and will feature appetizers along with the usual choice of beverages. This is the time to meet your neighbors. This is also the event at which we elect new officers. You will have an opportunity to bring up neighborhood issues in an informal setting. We who live in the Greater Haight Ashbury in 2011 share a particular set of benefits and challenges. Because of this we have more in common than we think. Please come be part of it.

Kezar Bar and Restaurant
Saturday, August 27, 1 - 4 p.m.
 RSVP: cviasf@aol.com \$10 per person at door
 Members and their guests only

Check Out Mayor Wannabees

A candidate forum on September 22 will provide rare opportunity to see the mayoral candidates side by side discussing important issues at Cole Hall (UCSF) at 7 p.m. There are also plans to have a representative from the Department of Elections give a brief primer



Four of the nine major candidates invited to participate (left to right) Ed Lee, Michaela Alioto-Pier, Bevan Dufty and Leland Yee.

on ranked choice voting. This is the first time we will choose our mayor by this questionable method that vaulted third-ranking candidates to the top in last year's supervisorial election.

Invited are Michela Alioto-Pier, John Avalos, Terry Baum (Green Party), David Chiu, Bevan Dufty, Tony Hall (Independent), Dennis Herrera, Joanna Rees, Phil Ting, Leland Yee, and, of course, the once reluctant candidate, Mayor Ed Lee. ↪

INSIDE	
AT&T Boxes Coming Soon5	Park Groups Merge4
Board Minutes.....6	Postscripts10
Clean Cole St. Heroes5	Recycling Center Digs In3
District 5 Unites3	Red Vic Closes5
History Group10	Skatepark Pilot Done Deal7
Ice Cream Bar to Open4	Stanyan Trailhead Opens2
Mt. Sutro EIR Delayed8	Thanks to Members.....8
N-Judah Revamp.....8	Victorian Alliance Tour9

Mayoral Candidates Night*
Monday, September 22
7-9 p.m. UCSF's Cole Hall
513 Parnassus Avenue
 * Or, "So You Think You Can Dance?"

The meeting will begin with each candidate introducing him/herself and giving their basic 2-minute stump speech. Following that members of the audience will be able to ask their own questions and choose which candidates should respond.

CVIA is just one of 13 sponsoring organizations brought together by North of Panhandles's President Jarie Bolander. (See article on page 3.) Grab this chance to see all the hopefuls side by side.

Stanyan Street Access to Sutro Trails Finally Opens

For the neighborhood's hikers, June marked a milestone: the opening of the Stanyan Street entrance to the Mt. Sutro trails. Thanks to the tireless work of Greg Dawson, founder of the Mount Sutro Stewards, the historic trailhead leading to the Interior Greenbelt Park, is now open to members of the public for walking the half-mile trail to the top of Mount Sutro.

The Chronicle's Kelly Zito wrote, "Through the late 1800s, Adolph Sutro planted eucalyptus, cypress and pines on the property and the trail was sculpted with switchbacks and fortified with stones



Photo courtesy of Tony Holiday

The trailhead is located between two houses: 1229 and 1235 Stanyan.

to allow easy travel for horseback riders and ladies in long skirts. The land eventually passed to UCSF and other private owners. Then in 1957, the city purchased the Interior Greenbelt parcel and two others for \$175,000.

"The greenbelt property, however, was not to see the light of day. Worried about homeless encampments on the site, residents in the area blocked off the narrow opening to the land at Stanyan and 17th streets—apparently with the city's blessing, according to Dawson's research on public meetings. The 12 acres remained concealed for decades—just a tiny portion accessible from Edgewood Avenue. For generations, a flight of rickety steps squeezed between two Cole Valley homes seemed to belong to no one and lead to nowhere.

"Last month, however, San Francisco unlocked the long-hidden secret beyond that staircase—a leafy, birdsong-filled glen once owned by city forefather Adolph Sutro and fenced off for more than a half century."

How to get to Interior Greenbelt Park: The stairway entrance is situated on a lot between two homes at 1229 and 1235 Stanyan St., at the intersection of Stanyan and 17th streets in Cole Valley.

Ed. Note: The above are excerpts from an excellent article by Kelly Zito published on page D-1 of the SF Chronicle on June 11, 2011.

Cole Valley Fair, continued from page 1.

The recurring display of historic Cole Valley photos assembled by Jessica Justino elicits the most comment from adults. Each year she prepares a special feature—this time she will be revisiting the famous and infamous residents of Cole Valley. Her ad hoc gallery will be at the intersection of Cole and Parnassus, where the line can be three-deep as fascinated fairgoers get a new and old perspective on the neighborhood.

The roundup of musical groups promises to be the best we've had to date. Bitter Mystics—"smooth and sultry vocals backed by masterful acoustic rhythm and lead guitars, violin, energizing original songs described as boundary stretching Americana"; Blind Lemon Pledge—"playing a unique blend of classic blues and crowd-pleasing originals"; and Taiko Sisters—"an all-women drum group that teaches women the joy of drumming, then shares this joy."

Once again, board member Chuck Canepa has assembled an amazing line-up of vintage cars to display on Parnassus. See what your neighbors are hiding behind those garage doors.

The biggest crowd-pleaser of the fair is always "Pet Tricks" a fierce contest presided over by Bill Hancock located at the Parnassus/Cole intersection at midday. Neighbors of all ages display the talents of their pets, mostly dogs, to a crowd of vocal partisans.

We value the participation of Grattan Elementary School parents and kids who always have a popular booth, as well as the Haight's favorite bookstore Booksmith, whose staff always has interesting book-related activities. This year's poster and T-shirt was created by popular Cole Valley artist Jack Jacobson. We've just seen the artwork and expect the product to fly off the shelves.

There will be an especially interesting mix of vendors this year with middle eastern delicacies, cup-cakes on a stick, smoothies, roasted corn and much more. The booths will include such oddities as insects framed in shadowboxes, decorative masks, handmade pens, bowls and kitchen utensils, clay jewelry for kids, utilitarian pottery, woven accessories and silk ascots.

About 60 percent of the artists are returning from past fairs and a quarter of those are talented Cole Valley residents, who, by the way, were given a special discount this year. We're proud to say that, in their post-fair evaluations, the vendors have consistently given us high praise for a well-run fair. This is due, mainly, to our volunteers.

Please consider spending two hours of your time to help make this fair go smoothly again this year. Volunteer at colevalleyfair@gmail.com.
—Joan Downey, Fair Organizer

Street Closure on Fair Day

**Cole closed between Carl & Grattan
Parnassus closed between Belvedere & Shrader**

Four blocks will be closed to cars on Sunday, September 25, for the 9th Annual Cole Valley Fair. If you live in this area, you will not be able to park and access will be limited from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you need to use a car parked in a garage or an off-street parking area, you'll want to move it to an area outside of the closed blocks before the closure.

Grattan School has graciously donated their parking lot, which will be open the night before the fair and on the day of the fair, for your convenience.

We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause you and we will offer affected residents a discount on the fair T-shirts and posters. Contact us at colevalleyfair@gmail.com or 317-2074 with your questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

Move to Unite District 5 Organizations in Umbrella Group

We tried it nine years ago. CVIA's Richard Shadoian and Joan Downey assembled the leadership of 12 neighborhood organizations in District 5 to discuss common problems and best practices. They sponsored two wildly successful candidates nights and drew the support of then D-5 supervisor, Matt Gonzalez, who said, "It saves me going to meet with each individual organization."

However, over the years the issues proved to be too diverse to command the general attention of the various representatives and it became, with some notable vitriolic exceptions, just another monthly meeting these community activists had to attend. That was then.

Enter Jarie Bolander, an energetic, intelligent Panhandle resident who successfully formed an alliance among neighborhood organizations to put restrictions and monitor this year's Bay to Breakers race. He is now conferring with the same groups with the idea of meeting on a permanent basis "to work together on projects, events and issues that effect us all."

This is tentatively called the District 5 Neighborhood Action Committee (D5NAC) and he vows not to make the mistakes that lead to the demise of SF5-Together.

Says Bolander, who is president of the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association, "I feel we can achieve this through establishing a special committee within our collective organizations. Each one will send a representative to the D5NAC, who will have the option to join a committee focused on an issue of importance to his/her organization. For example, since the Bay to Breakers effects most of our neighborhoods, there will be a Bay to Breakers NAC sub-committee.

"The beauty of doing it this way is that this committee exists as an extension of our individual organizations."

If the D5NAC raises money for projects or events, it will require a fiscal sponsor, which any one of the 501(c)3 members can provide. "I feel that this structure gives us what we want -- a way to organize and formalize our collaborations without the overhead of an organization." (See related article on Mayoral Forum on page 1.)

—Karen Crommie

Alvord Lake Work Continues

The small group of stalwarts who meet every fourth Saturday morning to do weeding, planting and pruning at the park surrounding Alvord Lake (Stanyan and Haight) are continuing to see the fruits of their labor.

Susan Strolis, Brendan McKenna, Rob Bakewell, Jennifer Daggy, Harry Lu and Azure Kraxberger are there working alongside Rec and Park gardener Joe Chmielewski. Everyone is welcome to pick up a trowel. For more information contact Karen Crommie 431-1414 or kcrommie@aol.com.



Because of District 5's wide range of issues, Jarie Bolander wants to bring groups together through shared-interest committees.



HANC Co-Opts Kezar Garden

Yes, Virginia, you can have your cake and eat it too. Since our last update on the March 30 lease termination of the Recycling Center to be replaced by a community garden, the scenario has taken a bizarre turn. First, HANC's lawyer Robert De Vries succeeded in extending the "go" date to June 30, then, August 31, followed by an appeal giving them another 30 days. In the meantime HANC has agreed to cease their "transfer station" activities trucking recyclables from other sites and pick-ups from commercial businesses to be sorted in the Kezar site but refuses to stop the "buy-back" operation.

Now there is a new development. Over the last three months, HANC has succeeded in transforming their mission—like a divine calling to a new vocation: Urban Agriculture. Instead of merely supporting Greg Gaar's native plant nursery in the corner of the recycling center, the story now is that they are really at heart community gardeners, so much so that they have bypassed the Community Garden planning meetings chaired by distinguished park advocate Isabel Wade, along with Rec and Parks plans for refurbishing the site consistent with their Community Gardens Program protocol (<http://sfrecpark.org/CommunityGardens.aspx>) and apparently ignoring a list of 700 people who have been waiting their turn for a plot.

With astounding chutzpah, HANC has begun to create its own garden, even to the point of posting a "Gardeners' Sign-up" on their website. They insist they will underwrite the cost for much of it—since they ceased paying any rent to Rec and Park in January, they have extra cash. In a classic Saul Alinsky move, they have simply co-opted the project.* In return they want to keep the "buy-back" operation (stolen grocery carts filled with stolen recyclables), one of the practices that aggravated the neighbors. What a perfect plan for HANC: They keep their redemption operation, pay no rent, gain permanent squatter's rights with their garden, and expand their constituency with allocation of plots.

Deceptive Tactic

On their website, they have set up a false premise and then attacked it. The false premise is that Rec and Park is not renewing their lease because that they don't believe people will recycle in the same place they garden. Wrong. The reason that the Park wants them out is that, since 2000 they have been a redundant operation, an arrogant tenant with years of neighbor complaints, a source of income for park campers—providing incentives to raid blue box recycling materials, failing to provide required yearly accounting statements and undermining the city's landmark home pickup recycling operation. On the website they have set up a poll with drawings of growing vegetables seeming to ask people to vote whether or not they would recycle in the same place they garden but entitled "Gardener Sign Up." By whose authority have they taken over public land?

Mayor's Fault

Yes, you got it right. In spite of 10 years of knowing they were designated "non-conforming" in the park's Master Plan, they simply will not relinquish this piece of Golden Gate Park. How could it be that the city cannot control its leased property? The reason is simple. Orders have come down from the mayor that he doesn't want any "scene" involving police cars and people chained to fences. He told this to a group of us to our face last spring when he had faith that the matter could be negotiated, believing that "reasonable people can come to an agreement." Now that he is a candidate, he will have even less incentive for igniting front-page *SF Chronicle* drama.

That's it, folks. Never try to battle the militant left in this city. Even a centrist mayor like Gavin Newsom didn't have the courage to confront the recycling center until his last month of office. When he made it known that he wanted the lease finally terminated, it was

left to Rec and Park's General Manager Phil Ginsburg to fulfill that mandate. Then, Newsom left (poof). We thought Mayor Lee would support Rec and Park, but we were wrong. —Karen Crommie.

*Co-opt: An action whereby an opponent is nullified or neutralized by absorption. (Wikipedia)

Ice Cream Bar: City Makes it Tough on New Businesses

In June, after months of waiting, the necessary permits were finally issued to Juliet Pries, owner of the long-awaited Ice Cream Bar at 815 Cole Street. Carpenters are now in high-speed mode hoping for a September opening. Because they will be making ice cream on the premises there are stringent requirements for cleanliness and safety related handling to dairy products: easy-to-clean walls, special refrigeration, drainage, generators, venting...the list goes on. Not only will Juliet be offering homemade organic ice cream, she will have classic fountain food and house made candies.



Varnishing woodwork—one of the last jobs.

Most time-consuming are the finishing touches to the Art Deco interior and fixtures. The 30s bar of blonde curved wood trimmed with chrome and round mirrors was purchased last year, while the fountain in front of it has the original soda and syrup dispensers installed behind a classic marble counter. The restored Stanley Knight soda fountain will be the only one still operating in San Francisco.



Ice Cream Bar owner Juliet Pries

In a city where the permit process discourages the faint of heart, Juliet stood firm for over a year and, with help from members of the community appealing to the Planning Department, will finally realize her dream of an old fashion soda fountain, right here in Cole Valley. Long-time Cole Valley resident, Rita

Arnerich Veideman noted (in the Spring issue) that the Ice Cream Bar will be in close proximity to the old Peerless Pharmacy located where Crepes on Cole is now. Veideman remembers that, in the 40s, there were two different neighborhood drug stores with soda fountains. Soon, one will make a comeback. —Karen Crommie

Marriage of Park Groups

It wasn't easy, this being San Francisco, but the two major support groups for the city's public parks have finally done what they should have done several years ago—merged.

San Francisco Parks Trust (SFPT)—formerly Friends of Rec and Park—has now combined forces with the Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC)—the park watchdog organization founded by Isabel Wade—to form a new, much larger park advocacy group called the San Francisco Parks Alliance (SFPA).



Meredith Thomas, Executive Director, Neighborhood Parks Council made the announcement.

During the year-long process, there were a plethora of meetings held, yards of legal red tape to unwind and many toes stepped on, but ultimately both groups realized what the city's library supporters had done a decade before: when people contribute money, they want assurance that there is experienced oversight and financial solidity, not warring factions operating with crossed, or overlapping purposes.

We want to write one check, and feel assured that there is one fully informed organization that will make sure the money goes where it is most needed.

NPC executive director Meredith Thomas explained on their website that, "We noticed that over the years, our two organizations began to serve park users in similar ways through programs such as fiscal sponsorship. We also noted that NPC's vigorous advocacy was leading to a greater philanthropic investment in our parks and SFPT's philanthropic contributions were leading to more park advocacy. As organizations, we asked ourselves: is there a need to create a new model for serving San Francisco parks and park users? In this depressed economic environment should we do all we can to reduce duplication of efforts and provide a stronger and united voice for parks?"

On July 12, 2011, at the SFPT Annual Member Meeting, the final endorsement to form the San Francisco Parks Alliance was given. Their mission is to inspire and promote civic engagement and philanthropy to protect, sustain, and enrich San Francisco parks and green open spaces. The Parks Alliance will launch this fall. Ms. Thomas asks that you send your "ideas, hopes, concerns, and dreams" to feedback@sfnpc.org or by calling their office at 415-621-3260. There will be regular updates on their website <http://sfnpc.org/>.

—Karen Crommie

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

Captain Denis O'Leary holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:00 p.m. He reviews criminal activity and the safety concerns of residents. It's a good way to stay in touch with what's going on.



September 13, October 11, November 8
Mark Your Calendars

Call for News

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



In Spite of Grass Roots Opposition, AT&T Boxes Get OK'd

The bad news is that, on July 19, six out of the eleven members of the Board of Supervisors voted to uphold the exemption that would permit AT&T to erect 726 refrigerator-size communication closets on the city's sidewalks. Oh, yes, at the last minute, AT&T's lawyers said they'd only place 435 in the first go-round. Big deal. The total number didn't change. The good news is that you can contest one being placed in front of your building.

John King's article in the *SF Chronicle* on August 1 didn't help. He basically drank the Kool Aid while the rest of us were thinking about the ominous precedent this sets in a time of burgeoning competitive technology. (Who'll be the next to blanket the city with hardware?) It is short-sighted to give one private company that much free space on the public right-of-way at the expense of pedestrians and those of us who have worked with the Better Streets Plan to make the sidewalks safer, greener and more inviting. It reveals the cynicism of the city's leaders. The Supervisors didn't even require AT&T to offer property owners yearly fees for allowing the boxes on their premises, as stipulated in a policy statement authored by our present mayor when he was head of DPW. It was a long-fought battle with Supervisor Elsbernd immovable in his support of AT&T. I especially appreciated Milo Hanke of SF Beautiful for leading the opposition and those supervisors who voted against granting the exemption: Mirkarimi, Chiu, Mar, Avalos and Kim. But, alas,



All across the city, hundreds of boxes like these will be installed on sidewalks thanks to the decision of short-sighted supervisors.

the die has been cast and these hulking graffiti magnets will start appearing in our neighborhoods within a few weeks.

Property owners need to follow this story closely as the locations are revealed. The approval passed with the provision that objections to placements could be lodged through the district supervisors. Our District 5 supervisor is Ross Mirkarimi, whose contact information is on the last page under "Help."

— Karen Crommie

VOLUNTEER TO WORK TWO HOURS AT THE FAIR ON SEPT 25. colevalleyfair@gmail.com

Red Vic Bites the Dust

It was a sad day when the Red Vic Movie House closed its doors. July 25 marked 31 years of operation and culminated with a sale of their old movie posters. The last film shown was "Harold and Maude," a favorite, played every year on their birthday. The first, in 1980 was the Canadian film "Outrageous."

They moved in 1991 from their original location at the Red Victorian Hotel on Haight Street to the site of the former Blue Moon Saloon (1727 Haight) with newer sofas and an expanded snack



The unique cinema had a faithful following but it wasn't large enough to pay the bills.

bar but stuck with that eclectic mixture of films that ranged from classics like "Casablanca" to camp features like "Reefer Madness." Because of that, the audiences were widely diverse but admonished equally by a time-worn "short" that preceded every film, warning people to carry out their popcorn bowls (yes, bowls) and not

spill their beverages lest a green monster rise from under the seat and pull them into the void.

San Francisco Chronicle reporter G. Allen Johnson wrote (7/7/11) that of the original six collective members, only Jack Rix stayed on until the end. Claudia Lehan joined the collective in 1998. The other remaining members were Susie Bell and Sam Sharkey. A few benefits had taken place over the years—the last one during this year's Haight Street Fair. "We had some support, but not enough to make it sustainable," said Lehan.

Our neighborhood has lost one of its most unique businesses. Now that it's gone most of us regret not having gone more often.

—Karen Crommie

A CLEAN COLE STREET



2011 Participants

Alpha Market
BurgerMeister
Cole Hardware
Crepes on Cole

Bambino's Ristorante
Cole Cleaners
Cole Valley Fitness
Postal Chase

The names above are the only merchants who pay for the daily cleaning of Cole Street. They, along with generous CVIA members—who contribute over and above their dues, subsidize the businesses who choose not to contribute. Please thank the merchants who support the project.

CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at CVIA board meetings over the last four months. Every meeting begins with a review of the last meeting's resolutions, discussion of current Cole Valley/Haight issues, reports from committee heads and from delegates to the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee, MTA Citizens Advisory Council, Alvord Lake Gardening Work Party and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.

Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings occur the first Monday of every month (except December) at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. Call 681-0681 to learn the location.

May

Location: Home of Doug Hall – May 2, 2011

- Welcomed Alex Mitra from State Senator Leland Yee's office who asked for an update on CVIA's issues. A discussion followed on the topics of the delayed permits for the Ice Cream Bar (815 Cole Street); lease termination of the Recycling Center; the Muni plans for bulb-outs on Carl Street, the proposed skateboard park; Lee's position on shark's fin soup; and the unintended consequences of the rent ordinance. Alex's said that among Lee's priorities were to make the city "family friendly" including giving incentives to keep them here, and to reduce red tape at City Hall.

- Artist Jack Jacobson presented drawings for the Cole Fair poster and was receptive to the Board members' suggestion for adapting the design for the T-shirt.

- Discussed petition given to Captain O'Leary containing 200 names opposing the location of the proposed skateboard park on Waller Street. (Total petition signatures were to eventually amount to 554.) He said that Supervisor Mirkarimi still supported the park at that location.

- Motion approved to send letter to Captain O'Leary stating our opposition to the skatepark.

- The Community Garden committee will hold its next monthly meeting at the Recycling Center.

- Joan Downey reported on the annual merchant participation in the Clean Cole Street project, which requires each to pay \$1 per day for seven-day a week sidewalk cleaning.

Downey said that Merchants who participate genuinely like the program but there is no incentive for others, who know they will get their sidewalk swept without having to pay. (Obviously, because street debris is constantly moving, it's impossible to only sweep the merchants who participate.)

- Bay to Breakers: Joan Downey volunteered to help on race day.

- Motion approved that letter be sent to the Board of Appeal in opposition to the AT&T categorical exemption; a letter to the Planning Department expressing neighborhood approval of the Ice Cream Bar.

- Motion approved to allocate all buyers rewards given by Cole Hardware to the Clean Cole Street fund.

- Lena Emmery reported on the Police Advisory Board meeting with Captain O'Leary: Crime is down generally but the chronic small crimes still persist: car boosts, citations for illegal substances, theft of laptop computers, bicycles, cell phones, shoplifting and public drunkenness.

- Extended discussion on plans for the Cole Street Fair: balance of food booths, decision on applications for artists with similar merchandise, ISCOTT permit received, etc.

- Adjourned at 10:00

June

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger – June 6, 2011

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$17,214.18 in savings, \$6,655.17 in checking; of that, \$7,146.52 is in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$15,900.37 is in the Cole Valley Fair fund. She noted that Ginny and Kenneth Brown, former residents of Willard St., now retired in Virginia, donated \$75 to CVIA. The State sent final incorporation papers. Last year's taxes have been submitted to the IRS.

- Joan Downey gave the board an update on preparations for the CVIA Fair (Sept. 25). Because of a resurfacing of the play yard of Grattan School, it may not be available for vendor parking. Lena to check on possibility of using Waller Street. Of the 50 applying vendors, 28 returning have been pre-approved for booths. Artist Jack Jacobson thinks a line version of his poster will make a good T-shirt design.

- To lessen the number of people cramming on to the N-Judah leaving no room for those boarding in Cole Valley, the SFMTA has initiated an N-Judah express bus from the Beach to 19th Avenue. From there it goes non-stop to downtown.

- Motion to create a Cole Valley neighborhood group on Facebook with board members Amy Blakeley and Shannon Hock Cooper as administrators. Next meeting board members are to bring laptops.

- Discussed the Summer Social: need date and venue before August.

- Adjourned at 9:45

July

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa – July 5, 2011

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$17,218.21 in savings, \$5,251.32 in checking; of that, \$6,271.52 is in the Clean Cole Street fund and \$16,135.67 is in the Cole Valley Fair fund.

- Discussed venue, menu and member contribution for annual meeting and summer social

- Discussed upcoming hearing called by Supervisor Scott Weiner on July 11 regarding the 726 communication boxes approved by the Dept. of Planning without the requirement of an EIR; the joint meeting with Mayor Lee and members of NOPNA, BVNA, ISPN, HAIA at the SF Day School on July 21 to hear the case for two ballot measures: one to increase the contribution of city employees to their pension plan and the other a bond measure for a massive repair the city's streets; the election forum with participation of the same District 5 neighborhood organizations on September 22.

- Motion passed to accept the offer of Kathy Berkman to provide insurance for the Cole Fair and other CVIA activities.

- Discussed CVIA's financial status in light of a diminishing number of merchant participants in the Clean Cole Street project and the reduced contribution of corporate sponsors for the upcoming Cole Street Fair (Sept. 25)

- At 7 p.m. the meeting adjourned and a buffet dinner was served followed by the two-hour jury process to evaluate the merchandise of applicants for Fair booths. As always, we broke into three groups with each group reviewing all of the entries and assigning points. At the end of the evening the points were counted and the winners were accepted.

August

Location: Home of David and Karen Crommie – Aug. 1, 2011

- Motion to accept insurance package from broker Kathy Berkman for \$1763 annually, which includes the Cole Street Fair, Santa on Cole, Summer Social, Clean Cole Street and the board of directors.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported \$17,222.81 in savings, \$15,370.31 in checking; of that \$5,421.52 is in the Clean Cole Street

fund and \$26,553.46 is in the Cole Valley Fair fund. Although there has been diminished participation in Clean Cole Street project, we have enough money to fulfill the obligation for this year.

- Discussed the option of publishing the CVIA News online, with an option for a printed copy. This way each family member could have a copy of his/her own.

- Discussed the approval of a 6-month trial program for the skateboard park on Waller Street. Since the evaluation process created by Rec and Park relies solely on complaints/support provided by neighbors, the only way we will be able to verify these numbers is that if CVIA receives a copy. Motion was passed to ask members to copy CVIASF@aol.com when a complaint is sent to any city agency or, alternatively, send a short description of any complaint telephoned in.

- David Crommie presented the postcard size prints of past Cole Valley Fair posters. Board approved a minimum printing run and packaging for sale at the Fair. Motion approved to charge \$5 per packet, with one free packet to be given with new membership at Fair. On the back of the card it was decided to place CVIA acknowledgement vertically, dividing the writing area in traditional postcard format.

- Discussed an anonymous donor's request to underwrite the cost of providing Wi-Fi to Cole Valley cafes. No action taken.

- Discussed the recent meeting held by MTA at the Park Branch Library revealing plans for the Carl Street track improvements and street renovation. (See article on page 8)

- The remainder of the meeting concentrated on the upcoming Cole Street Fair: movement of disability parking zones, rewording of notification fliers on streets closed to traffic for the fair, treatment of booth waiting list applicants, wording for car towing signs, decision to place canopies over musicians while they are performing, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

CVIA Executive Board: Amy Blakeley, Chuck Canepa, Shannon Cooper Hock, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmerly, Carole Glosenger, Douglas Hall, Marianne Hesse.

Tell Us at CVIASF@aol.com



Although CVIA has opposed the Waller Street location for the skatepark, this pilot program is now a reality. Since the evaluation process created by Rec and Park relies **solely** on complaints provided by neighbors, the only way we will be able to verify the substance and number of these complaints is

if CVIA knows they have been made and you send us the "tracking number" you will receive when you call the police (non-emergency number) 553-0123 or 311. Unfortunately, the SFPD does not accept complaints by email, but you can email Park Station Captain Denis O'leary at Denis.O'leary@sfgov.com. This will not, however, go on the city's stats for skateboard complaints, but will let him know that you are not happy.

Skatepark Six-Month Pilot Is a Done Deal

At a long-awaited community meeting on the proposed skateboard park, Rec and Park director of community affairs Alex Randolph apologized for the way this project moved through the Board of Supervisors two years ago without neighborhood notification. He also explained that, in spite of a petition signed by over 500 neighbors protesting the Waller Street location of the skatepark, the fact that it had been approved meant that Rec and Park has no choice but to implement the plan in the best way they can. They have come up with a six-month "pilot project" as a nod to the neighbors. Few think it is more than that.

Neighbors will be the Monitors

This is primarily because of the criteria that will determine the success or failure of the park is based solely on the number of complaints they receive. Carefully laid out in a PowerPoint presentation



John Rizzo was one of many neighbors expressing dismay over the lack of neighborhood notification.

by SF Skateboarding Association (SFSA) president Justin Marks, the park will be evaluated on cleanliness, calls for service from the SFPD and/or the Park Patrol, number of citations issued, impact on other activities (food trucks, farmers Market, bike safety lessons). Sounds great. But, excepting for a few hours on Fridays, the park will be unsupervised during its posted open hours, dawn

to dusk, so the only people doing the evaluation, that is, calling in complaints to these authorities, will be...us.

Only 30 people showed up at the County Fair Building on July 26 and half of those were skateboarders. The comments from residents focused on noise (slap, bang, crash), lack of supervision, concern for younger skaters being made unwelcome by older ones, skaters taking over the sidewalks adjacent to the park (Waller Street) on their way to the park.

Not All Neighbors Were Opposed

On the other hand, there were two older neighbors who spoke in favor of the skatepark's location, stressing its natural buffers of the park and Stanyan Street and, most important, that skateboarders were members of our District 5 community and were entitled to be served just as much as, for example, tennis players, golfers or fly fishermen. A fact no one would dispute—but, at a different location.

Rebar Stands to Gain

Randolph said that the \$70,000 allocated for the park's design had not yet been touched and that the elaborate architectural drawings showing options ruled out and indications of use areas at the Waller Street skatepark were done pro-bono by design firm Rebar, who, one can assume, is in line for the commission.

In addition to neighbors, there were other factions with vested interest in the Waller Street site. Displaced will be Burt Hill, who teaches Urban Street Skills, a program instructing bike riders how to cope in city traffic, as well another program teaching adults to ride a bike. Jennifer McFee who runs the Wednesday Farmers'

Market needs parking for her vendors, who come laden with fruit and vegetables. SFSA said they would try to accommodate her.

The pilot project will begin immediately with a steering committee made up of all stakeholders to be established within a few weeks. This group will have evaluation meetings in October, December and February.

— Karen Crommie

EIR Delayed on Controversial Sutro Forest Management Plan

The UCSF campus planning team has been working on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) relating to the demonstration projects and the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve forest management plans. A draft is scheduled to be published in the fall of 2011. This schedule has been revised because we will be conducting more analysis in response to community feedback received during and after the very thorough scoping process. Thank you to those of you who participated in that process.

After the EIR is issued, there will be a 45-day public comment period that will include a public hearing. Comments will be responded to in writing, and the Draft EIR will then be revised as necessary, with the final EIR being certified by the decision-making body as determined by the UC Board of Regents. The decision-making body will then determine whether to approve the project, and if approved, the demonstration projects will be implemented. To accommodate the bird-nesting season and avoid the rainy season, we anticipate the demonstration projects to be implemented as soon as August 2012.

In the meantime, UCSF is applying for funds to help cover the costs of implementing the demonstration projects in the Reserve. Finally, to make sure that people are kept up-to-date on the forest management issues in the Reserve, we have posted an updated Q&A on the website, www.ucsf.edu/about/cgr/current-projects/mount-sutro-open-space-reserve. This Q&A replaces and updates questions and answers from previous Q&A documents. Please let us know if you have any questions.

—Barbara Bagot-López

UCSF Community and Government Relations



Thank You For Your Support in 2011



It certainly isn't expected, but when a member sends in an extra contribution, we appreciate it greatly. Only eight Cole Valley merchants contributed to the daily cleaning of the Cole Street business district, which costs us \$900 each month. We make up the deficit with member contributions, a sizeable discount from CleanScapes and proceeds from the Cole Valley Fair. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members for their generosity:

Les Silverman and Irv Govan, Britny Bottorff, Ellena Ochoa and Ted Ridgeway, Jessica Justino and Bill Hancock, Rosemary Southwood, Juliet Pries, John Manning, The Ice Cream Bar, Virginia and Kenneth Brown, Virginia Joosen, Tom Nicoll, Billy and Kendra Robins, Penny Duan and Steve Chaffin, Timothy Dunn and Claudia Scharff, Janan New, Susan Hills, Kay Bertram, Jan Platt and Jeff Ross, Linda Coda and Robert Brigante, Gerardo Joffe.

N-Judah Rail Project Moves Forward: Shut-downs Planned

The Municipal Transit Agency (MTA) held a public meeting focused on the upcoming improvements of the N-Judah rail line. Approximately forty neighbors joined MTA staff in the Park Branch Library community room on July 27. MTA project manager Ha Nguyen and project engineer Mark Rudinski described the project and answered questions, while MTA spokeswoman Janis Yuen and public relations officer Jeannette Sanchez facilitated the meeting.

Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2012 and will require several weekend shutdowns of portions of the N-Judah Line from February 2012 to February 2013. Because the rail project will, of necessity, be accompanied by sewer and water pipe relocation and replacement, expect service to be shut down several weekends. This project is linked with the rail work and street improvements being done on Duboce



The \$18.3 million project will replace tracks on Carl St. between Arguello and Cole.

between Church and Noe. Dates and details are subject to change due to weather and other unexpected conditions. There will be bus shuttle service operating in place of the affected light rail service

The biggest concerns of the neighbors were mitigation of the noise and vibration from the rail cars and the proposed sidewalk bulb-outs at three different locations on Carl Street.

Nguyen assured the crowd that the noise/vibration issue will be minimized by a new track bed and the installation of track lubricators. There did not seem to be quantitative data as to how much these changes would lower the levels of noise/vibration but a comparable project was completed at St. Francis Circle that resulted in noise and vibration reduction. Let's hope that we have the same results.

The transit bulbs will improve access for the nearly 5,700 daily users of the three stops covered in the project, allowing customers to board and exit the trains more safely, improve service by reducing delays due to illegally parked vehicles, and is expected to reduce the time it takes for customers to board. The transit bulb streetscape improvements, which were developed with the community as part of a feasibility study concluded in 2008, are being incorporated into the Carl Street Rail Replacement project to minimize the impact to transit service and the surrounding community.

There were several objections to the transit bulbs: 1) the loss of 6-8 parking spaces on the street in a neighborhood where parking is already tight 2) the design of the bulbs were felt to be out of character with our old neighborhood 3) the danger to cyclists because of insufficient space to navigate between the track and the curb edge of the bulbs. The objections were noted, but no solutions to these issues were suggested.

Others voiced objections about the lack of design consistency with the neighborhood: the modern design of the transit shelters; the stamped concrete squares at transit bulbs; and a proposed "mast arm" for the traffic signal at Carl and Stanyan.

There will be more community meetings as the construction date gets closer. The website for the project is www.sfmta.com/carl. It includes contact information for MTA Staff.

—Lena Emmery

Joan Downey contributed to this article

Be a Part of It: Cole Valley Fair Volunteers Needed!

Many people will be needed on September 25 to make the Cole Valley Fair a success. We especially need volunteers before the fair's opening at 10 a.m. to make sure the setup for the vendors goes smoothly. We attract high quality vendors partly because the Fair is well organized—let's keep it that way.



Lena Emmery assists exhibitors in lining up their vintage cars on Parnassus.

The day starts at 6 a.m. when we work with the police and DPT to get cars towed (after trying to identify the owners), set up barricades, unlock the dumpsters and port-a-potties, post the Fair signs, and measure and mark the 100-vendor spaces. Hartmann Studios Rentals, who will provide canopies, tables, and chairs, needs guidance as to where to put everything.

At 7 a.m. the vendors start arriving. Volunteers at all four intersections will greet the vendors and direct them to their booth space. A monitor at the Grattan parking lot will direct traffic there and pack in as many cars as possible — making sure that everyone has their booth location and cell phone number on the dashboard.

And we need to set up the CVIA and Fair booths; help mount the historical photos exhibit; and check that all the vendors arrived with the goods they promised.



David Crommie helps Joan Downey set up CVIA booth.

The morning crew will be treated to coffee and pastries.

Throughout the day, we need volunteers to walk around the fair to check that everything is going OK; help move barricades for vehicles to get through in an emergency; call for the CleanScapes crew if there is a spill; arrange the tables and chairs—making sure that they are clean; and observe the booths: Are there any that stand out? Who do we want back next year; who don't we?

After 5 p.m. we need volunteers to help pack up T-shirts and count the number left, remove signs, remove the photo display, and return barricades to the location from which they were delivered.

If you can help any time during the day for a minimum two-hour stint, send an e-mail to colevalleyfair@gmail.com or call 317-2074. Each volunteer gets a 2011 Cole Valley Fair T-shirt or poster with artwork by Jack Jacobson.

*Joan Downey
Cole Valley Fair Organizer*

Victorian Alliance Home Tour Comes to Cole Valley/Haight

Celebrating its 37th Annual House Tour, the Victorian Alliance of San Francisco will feature three homes in Cole Valley, and one on Waller Street in the Haight. The Waller Street home is that of longtime CVIA and Victorian Alliance members Ginny and Dave Keller.

The October 16 self-guided tour will include the historic All Saints Episcopal Church, also on Waller Street. The three higher elevation bonus residences are accessible by complimentary shuttle bus. Representing a variety of styles—from expansive Victorian to cozy cottage—these examples of architectural diversity date from the 1880s to 1933. While all residences have retained their original period exteriors, several reflect contemporary interiors adapted to the lifestyles of their resident families.



Owners Ginny and Dave Keller, both engineers, applied hundreds of sections of Bradbury and Bradbury wallpaper to achieve a stunning effect on the ceiling and frieze.

Docents will provide historical background on each house's architect, contractor, craftsmen, and the families who settled the neighborhood in the 19th century. Complimentary light refreshments are served from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. as a welcome reward for tour-participants. Touring tips: Comfortable walking shoes and attire are recommended, and stair climbing should be anticipated in some residences.

All tour goers will receive a handsomely illustrated program with clearly marked routes and shuttle bus locations. This popular event frequently sells out, so early ticket purchase before October 10 is highly recommended. If available, day-of-tour tickets will be sold at the tour starting point at the intersection of Masonic and Waller.

Event proceeds benefit the Preservation Grant Fund of The Victorian Alliance, San Francisco's oldest all-volunteer, not-for-profit architectural preservation and education organization. See our Grant Program page for an extensive list of past beneficiaries.

Tickets for the event are available at <http://www.victorianalliance.org/house-tour>. If purchased before October 10, tickets are \$30 for the general public and \$25 for Victorian Alliance members. After October 10, all tickets will be \$35. Day-of-tour tickets, if available, will also be \$35.



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

VOLUNTEER TO WORK TWO HOURS AT THE FAIR ON SEPT 25. colevalleyfair@gmail.com

It's Time to Come Together... in the Past

For many years I have felt that our neighborhood needed some kind of historical society, or maybe that's too grand a name, perhaps, "group," would be a better term: The Greater Haight Historical



11 Piedmont, the neighborhood's oldest house.

Group (GHHG). It would involve neighbors coming together to enjoy convivial and informative evenings with others to learn more about the origins and energies of our fascinating community.

I envision a non-political, cooperative forum—a thriving history group that would not only bring

business into the neighborhood, but also improve property values.

Possible Activities for Group

■ **History of "Our" House**—an avenue for sharing what we know about our buildings and encouraging and aiding each others' research.

■ **Children of the Past**—neighborhood children could be encouraged and guided to compile a "Children's History of the Haight." Urban School has a vibrant local history program—an active link could be productive for everyone.

■ **Speakers**—at regular monthly meetings, there could be presentations by the many San Francisco historians and authors.

■ **Special Events**—with a focus on the amazing book (available at the Booksmith) "Infinite City," a new generation is asking questions about San Francisco's roots. They would find a voice at the GHHG—maybe at cocktail parties hosted by The Booksmith?

■ **Cole Valley Fair**—Jessica Justino has a collection of historic photos that she displays each year at the fair. The GHHG could help expand it.

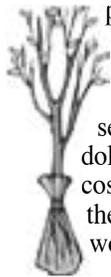
Please note that none of these ideas require funding—just enthusiasm and curiosity. If one of these ideas appeals to you, contact me at cosi7@comcast.net.

—Cosi Fabian

Ed. note: Cosi Fabian is an internationally known mythologist, poet, courtesan, actress and outspoken author who thrives on Ashbury Street.

Postscripts

HAIA president **Ted Loewenberg**, in an email to members recently wrote, "If you are interested in having a street tree in front of your property, where one does not exist today, by all means contact Friends of the Urban Forest to get it done. The responsibility of getting a tree and the joy of seeing it grow comes at some cost, however, including impact to sewage lines and trimmings that can run into thousands of dollars. Mayor Ed Lee has proposed that residents assume the costs for all street trees in his budget this year. So, consider the total impact, positive and negative, as you decide what works for you."



* * *

Cole Street Fair organizer **Joan Downey** sent me this note: "We're helping our friends in the **Inner Sunset** spread the word about their **Second Annual Street Fair** scheduled for Sunday, October 9, 2011. Booth applications are now being accepted. This year's event

will build on last year's success with more music, entertainment, booths, surprises, and community. Visit <http://isstreetfair.org/> for more information.

* * *

Reminiscent of the big turnover in the mid-90s, when so many commercial leases ran out and rents skyrocketed, Haight Street is



Villains Vault is one of several Haight Street businesses that have closed.

experiencing another upheaval: **Villains Vault** has closed its iconic store in the old bank building at Haight and Belvedere, **Haight Ashbury Tattoo and Piercing** has vacated the corner of Clayton to make way for a restaurant called **Burger Urge** and moved next door to a narrower storefront. The low-end collectables shop next to Ben and Jerry's has been gutted and reopened as a clothing store called **Gypsy Street Clothes**. **Pure Beauty**, which had been experiencing a slow death for years, finally said *fini*. **San Francisco Cyclery** on Stanyan Street has closed its doors, **Aardvark** at the corner of Haight and

Ashbury has been taken over by **Haight Ashbury Vintage** (clothing) and undergone a complete remodel. I feel the winds of change and that can be good...or not so.

* * *

Maybe we're too easily pleased but when **Willie Brown** rediscovered Cole Valley, everyone I know sent me the link. In case you didn't see his Sunday Chronicle column on June 25, he wrote, "Have you been to Cole Valley lately? I went up there for dinner on Cole between Carl and Parnassus, and it was like a block party. This is a place where the neighborhood restaurants actually serve the neighbors. There are three restaurants right next to each other on that block, and the locals were there with their kids. One place, **Zazie**, even allows people to bring their dogs. Definitely worth checking out."



Outstanding among those "three restaurants" is Babinos.

* * *

It's interesting how the Civil Sidewalk ordinance (Sit-Lie), voted into law last year but only enforced five months ago, has had the desired effect of reducing sidewalk campers without depriving any of our citizens of their civil rights. The loud protests have been silenced by the infrequency of the enforcement need and the respect with which the police have carried it out. Sure, you still see the occasional backpacker sprawled out blissfully on the corner, but not for long. Hats off to former Park Police **Captain Teresa Barrett**, Haight Street merchant **Kent Uyehara**, HAIA president **Ted Loewenberg** and, of course, our former mayor, **Gavin Newsom** former chief of police, **George Gascón** and Park Police Station's **Captain Denis O'Leary** who has made compliance a priority. ➡

Cviasf@aol.com

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

Now that the **Red Vic Movie House** has shut its doors (sob) its lobby space might be available for **The Alembic**, the up-scale restaurant bar owned by **Dave McLean** (Magnolia Brew Pub), which is right next door (1725 Haight St.), to expand its dining area. That is, assuming the building owner would consent to breaking up the space. Even if a deal goes through, these things are not easily accomplished in San Francisco where the Planning Department keeps a storehouse of hoops to go through.



Will Alembic expand into the Red Vic's lobby?

* * *

Richard Magary asks everyone to save the date of Sunday, October 9, 2011 for "The Great Night" on the summit of Buena Vista Park from 4 to 7 p.m. "Bring a picnic basket, blanket, and jacket if it's cool. It's free and a great chance to get out, meet and mingle with your neighbors, and enjoy brief readings by noted local authors **Chris Adrian** and **Andrew Sean Greer**. Relax with music, dance, faeries and other roving entertainment by **Literary Clown Foolery**, emceed by **Daniel Handler** (aka **Lemony Snicket**). To get



Music in BV Park used to be an annual event.

there: Walk uphill from any BV Park entrance. There will also be a free shuttle van from Buena Vista East/West at Upper Terrace for those needing assistance. Contact Richard at bvna@ix.netcom.com for details.

* * *

Would you rather receive the **CVIA News** online? If so just contact us at cviasf@aol.com and we will make it happen. On the other hand if you want to receive both a mailed edition *and* the online version, we will be happy to do that, too. In the meantime, check out the new Facebook page—Cole Valley Neighbors.

—Karen Crommie

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CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Winter edition should be sent before November 1, 2011 to 628 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or kcrommie@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

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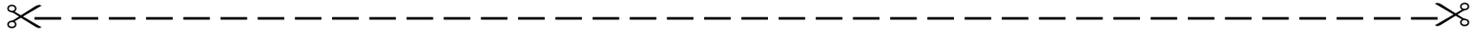
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BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

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

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



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

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

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

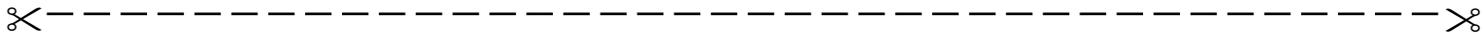
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

What I like about the neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$ _____ Okay to acknowledge by name in newsletter

Dues paid to CVIA are not deductible as charitable contributions, however, amounts greater than the membership dues may be taken as a charitable deduction. Contact your accountant regarding the tax law.



Cole Valley Improvement Association
P.O. Box 170611
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