

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XVI

SERVING RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

November 2003

First "Heart of Cole" Fair Draws Thousands to Cole Street

The sun was just rising as fair organizer Lori Elder (The Shop), chalk in hand, marked both sides of Cole Street with equal squares



For one Sunday in October, Cole Street became a village marketplace.

designating the places booths would be erected. It was Sunday, October 19, the day of Cole Valley's first street fair. By nine o'clock most vendors had set up and neighbors were starting to trickle into the area. The first of the live music started at 10:30, following a rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Six different bands were to play throughout the day.

At the CVIA booth, former president Joan Downey worked with Jessica Justino to mount historic photos of Cole Valley. Justino had



Early fairgoers enter the CVIA booth while volunteers Bill Hancock and Joan Downey finish mounting historic photos.

spent weeks organizing and reprinting selections from the Gaar collection along with contributions from Cole Valley/Haight families. The exhibit was one of the focal points of the fair as crowds filled the booth and stood three deep in line to view a continuation of the display on the Parnassus side of Alpha

Market. The subjects included street scenes, residences, transportation and people spanning a hundred years.

The fair was originally the idea of Olivia Swilley, a special assistant to the mayor, who organized the first meeting with Cole Valley merchants and a representative from CVIA. After much discussion and several more meetings, the merchants voted to go ahead. Cole Valley would have its own fair and Lori Elder (The Shop) and Maryo Mogannam (Postal Chase) would make sure it was a good one. The merchants, as well as CVIA, contributed seed money and

this was topped off by large contributions from the sponsoring firms: Cole Hardware, Craigslist, Walgreens, American Cyclery, Berkeley Farms, Black Pants Productions, 3M, Fed Ex and Pepsi.

New to the game, the merchants asked for advice from Pablo Heising, producer of the Haight Street Fair. He guided them through the complicated process of securing permits, booths, police protection, portable toilets, a stage and stage manager, cleanup crew and insurance. He did this pro-bono in exchange for a chance to include Cole Valley in the shopping brochure he produces for the Haight Street commercial district.



Jessica Justino assembled an impressive array of early Cole Valley photos.

Lori Elder contacted all the artists and craftspeople, selected the poster designers, arranged for all the musicians as well as doing a major part of the grunt work: walking door-to-door to garner merchant support, distributing posters and, on fair day, addressing most of the complications that came up minute by minute.



Sgt. Mark Porto worked closely with Maryo Mogannam and Lori Elder.

The fair's vendors offered a wide variety of crafts, fine art and photography. Food was limited to those with businesses on Cole Street: Bambinos and Zazie. An exception was made for Grattan School parents who happily sold lemonade and Krispy Kreme donuts. Among the participating Cole Valley artists were Elaine Robinson, Melissa Muszynski and Barbara Deuel.

The Cole Valley Merchants' booth sold the stunning poster by

INSIDE

Amphitheater in Cole Valley	10	Haight Toilet Approved	5
Binder Recap	8	Help	11
Board Action	4	Muni's 37 Line	8
Buena Vista Tree Planting	6	Panhandle Market	9
Care Not Cash Killed	6	Park Renovation	7
Cole Valley Cleanup	4	Police Captain Retires	2
Concourse Garage	7	Postscripts	10
Conservatory Reopens	3	Street Trees	5
Crime Report	4	Traffic Circles	9
CVIA Election	8	Urban Outfitters	9
Forty Niners Return	5	Walgreens	7

Cole Valley artists Chuck Sperry and Ron Donovan and T-shirts emblazoned with the same design. They also sold raffle tickets for prizes awarded at the closing of the fair including an inflatable chair in the shape of a Giants baseball glove (The Shop), 49ers/Rams tickets (Berkeley Farms) and a child's bicycle (American Cyclery).

As at any large event, there were a few problems. Several people managed to get through the car barriers, others broke glass bottles expressly forbidden by the fair, one candidate's supporters set up a table in spite of being told not to, one merchant insisted on selling alcoholic beverages on the street even though it put the fair's insurance in jeopardy, some bands were deemed too loud by nearby residents and, most upsetting to fair organizer Lori Elder, a few cars had to be towed the morning of the fair.



CVIA president Douglas Hall talks with Craig Newmark, one of the fair's major sponsors.

The fair was fun and civilized. No alcohol was sold in the booths but visitors could walk



Maryo Mogannan holds a pumpkin full of raffle tickets as children pick winners.

one another. A higher quality of artisans, fewer people. The weather was perfect and the crowd disbursed promptly at six. Will they do it again? The word on the street was an emphatic, yes. Lori Elder, Maryo Mogannam and the other merchants who worked so hard re-

—Karen Crommie



Supervisor Gavin Newsom stops by the CVIA booth at the fair.

with drinks as long as they weren't in glass containers. The difference from the Haight Street Fair was enormous. Many more babies and dogs, more interaction between people as neighbors chatted with



District 5 Supervisor Matt Gonzalez greets a supporter.

receive our heartfelt thanks. We'll have more postmortems on the Fair in our next newsletter.

Open House at Boys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club (1950 Page St.) will have its annual open house on Saturday, November 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Tzu Chi Foundation and the Haight Ashbury Food Program will provide refreshments along with pot luck contributions from community volunteers. There will be DJs and MCs from the Boys and Girls Club and Youthline. And if that's not enough, a basketball game will be going on in the gym. Bring the kids or just go to see first hand this amazing and often taken-for-granted neighborhood service.

Lawson Announces Retirement

On Friday, August, 15, 2003 I was offered and accepted the position of Director of Public Safety at the University of San Francisco. Current plans call for me to assume responsibilities at the University on October 1, 2003. I will retire from the San Francisco Police Department on Tuesday September 30.

I have been privileged and fortunate to serve such a vibrant, diverse and supportive community. I am equally honored to have served with such talented and dedicated men and women of the SFPD. I am excited about my new position at the University of San Francisco but at the same time will always cherish my final command at Park Station. My dedication to you the community and the officers that serve you will not waiver over the coming month and one half as I prepare for my departure.

Thank you especially for your support. I will always remember the wonderful people I have grown fond of in the community.

—Captain Dan Lawson

New Captain Introduced

Captain Dan Lawson's retirement party on September 25 was a class act, consistent with his two years at the helm of Park Station. At his request, there was an open house all afternoon and evening with barbecued meat (provided by him—his son is a butcher), pizza,



The new head of Park Police Station, Captain John Ehrlich, stands beside retiring Captain Dan Lawson at the festive retirement party.

salads, and many desserts. Lawson took the opportunity to introduce his replacement, Captain John Ehrlich, who returns to Park Station where he was a sergeant serving under Captain Berry 10 years ago.

Supervisor Gonzalez, representatives from the mayor's office, officers from many of the neighborhood associations and others whose lives he touched showed up for Lawson's party. Throughout the day, he gave tours of the police station: the 2-hour holding cells, the well-equipped exercise gym (with blaring rock music), and his office on the second floor.

He explained that he retired a year earlier than planned because a great opportunity came up at the University of San Francisco where he is now serving as Director of Public Safety.

—Joan Downey

A Polished Jewel

On this late September day, locals and tourists of all stripes were promenading with baby strollers and the occasional forbidden dog. Some were eating sandwiches on the lawn while others were clicking cameras. Tots were running beside flower patches and rolling down the hills.

One walkway led to a dahlia garden. Another to a pedestrian tunnel. Today though we were headed where few had walked in



A Saturday morning crowd waits patiently to enter the just-reopened Conservatory of Flowers.

eight years—into San Francisco's Conservatory of Flowers. This ornate Victorian style greenhouse was deemed the jewel of Golden Gate Park long ago. But first the building materials had to be discovered in a Bay Area man's estate nearly 50 miles away. Thousands of glass panes and structural elements were still stored in crates when several local businessmen bought and donated the kit to the city 125 years ago.

Since its construction in 1879 the building has endured fires, quakes and powerful winds. The latest blow, literally, in 1995 took the Conservatory out of commission for nearly a decade when it was determined that most of the structure's wood was rotten and needed to be replaced as well as 40% of the broken window panes and some endangered plant species.

After a \$25 million makeover forged by a rallying public and a dedicated rebuilding team, the icon on JFK Drive was reopened to the public on September 20. Hundreds of visitors from the Bay Area and beyond sauntered through the newly designed garden galleries of the botanical preserve. Their faces were chiseled in marvel.

Entering the main dome area, one's glasses immediately fogged from the humidity change. Voices were muted and backed by a soft whir from high ceiling fans. A thin band of colored glass panes dressed the waist of the dome and contrasted its white washed coating. One exceptional inhabitant of this palace was a Sumatran wax palm that enchanted pedestrians with its scarlet red trunk.

One particularly outlandish plant in the Lowland Tropics environment included the imperial philodendron that looked like a picture page torn



James Lick had the building prefabricated in New York by Lord & Burnham and shipped around the Horn for his estate in San Jose.

from Jack and the Beanstalk. One person remarked, "What a wonder." Others echoed the sentiment—"What a wonder."

Evidently saving the century-old plant was like preserving a life-support patient with a flickering power source. The rehabilitation team designed a special tube heating enclosure while the building was under repair. These on-call plant doctors rushed to attend to the valuable old plant on several occasions when location heat sensors activated their pagers.

eight years—into San Francisco's Conservatory of Flowers.

This ornate Victorian style greenhouse was deemed the jewel of Golden Gate Park long ago. But first the building materials had to be discovered in a

One branching gallery, the Potted Plants area, resembled a well-tended California home garden. The air was crisp. Conversations were made and heard in the lower ceiling space where seating and discussion was encouraged with wooden benches and chairs. The atmosphere was like a living room—if you could overlook the weave of visitors. Some rare starfish-looking orchids and a hairy-trunked palm from Cuba were two standouts. Another palm from Madagascar was stitched with pairs of needles that ran up its cactus-like trunk.

If one chose to learn about ecosystems and the unusual flora from more than 50 countries around the world under this roof then the opportunity existed. One could learn about the collection of endangered plant species and other rarities. The Special Exhibits area is a space designed to cater to students of every age. School chairs, a blackboard and a bulletin board with drawings added authenticity to the elementary classroom feel. Exhibit signs also addressed the layman's curiosity.

On this occasion a sudden mist sprayed down onto everyone's heads. Others cried out, "It's raining." Meanwhile butterflies fluttered in patterns that mimicked the visitors—spinning in place, heading one way, then the other.

The aisle width of two bodies throughout the Conservatory could have been a nuisance. On the other hand, it required a guest to fully appreciate the sensorial experience whether you were a plant lover or not.

In the Highland Tropics gallery the crisp air was what an open-air oxygen bar must be like. For some odd reason, my nose tricked me into thinking of Starburst candy. Some exotic orchids were caged here like a zoo. One sensed that these were wild life creatures that had to be tamed. While a boulder prominently set the stage for this room, tall ferns kissed the ceiling.

The most animated gallery must be the Aquatic Plants section where one immediately felt yet another change in temperature and humidity. Human heads appeared in a pond, reflections, propped



The sound of a waterfall quiets visitors to the Aquatic Plants dome.

between giant water lily pads. The Santa Cruz water lilies from the Amazon basin looked large enough to land a small helicopter and according to the Conservatory's publicity materials are "strong enough to hold a small child".

Here water splashed over shelves creating mini falls and bubbled out of four large vessels heard around the room. Carnivorous plants hung in their own cages and added a curious allure.

When the tour concluded, visitors exited the greenhouse to a blast of floral colors and inviting open area to walk and talk. For the mere \$5 admission, whether you're a plant lover or not, it's well worth the trip in time and space.

—Christopher Read

Love Cole Valley—Hate the Mess?

You're not alone if you feel Cole Valley's quality of life has declined. The more trash that lies on the streets and the more drug deals that take place without recourse, the more we forget that we don't have to accept these as normal. We forget how nice it was when there wasn't trash blowing down the sidewalks and when we never gave a second thought to walking past a park at night.

A number of neighborhood groups are forming around the city to clean up the streets. These groups are comprised of normal citizens who are tired of the quality of life declining in their neighborhoods. They have joined together to take action.

These groups typically do just a few things that make all the difference. 1) Carry cell phones when out in their neighborhood and call the police non-emergency number (553-0123) to report illegal behavior (ALWAYS from a safe distance). 2) Call DPW to pick up trash left on the streets (furniture, shopping carts, and dumped gar-



Clean streets can be achieved by raising awareness of personal responsibility and learning how to tap city services.

bage) at: 415-28-CLEAN. 3) Meet with local businesses and non-profits to get them engaged and helping. 4) Spread the word to others in the neighborhood.

One group focused on Dolores Park where they moved drug-dealers out and as a result made the neighborhood safer and cleaner. If you've been to Dolores Park lately, you've probably noticed the great work that group has done to make the park safe and clean. It's a big task but these small groups really do make a difference.

I've started a group in Cole Valley called SafeCleanCV. I've distributed flyers* door to door and created an e-mail group list to keep people engaged. Let me know if you'd like more information on how to get involved. It's easy, doesn't take much of your time, and makes a big difference for us all. E-mail: eric@ericmann.com or call 415-269-2178.

*Flyer can be accessed at <http://www.ericmann.com/>

I:



Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done.

CVIA Board Actions

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings during the last quarter.

Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the board are welcome to do so. Meetings occur the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. Call 362-0870 to learn the location.

August

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.
- Discussed response from Supervisor Gonzalez on the article published in the last newsletter by Jay Bagi ("Not Progressive Enough," says Gonzalez").
- Reviewed upcoming events at Kezar Stadium and the revised plans for closing Waller Street,
- Decided on strategies to actively promote the upcoming Candidates Forum sponsored by 5Together.
- Heard report from Joan Downey on plans for Cole Street Fair. Made plans for CVIA booth and volunteering times.

(There was no meeting in September because of Candidates Forum)

October

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.
- Special guest Supervisor Matt Gonzalez explained his legislation requiring advance neighborhood noticing of all "formula" (chain stores) businesses and subsequent dialogue.
- Heard a report from the Kezar Advisory Committee on damage to the stadium entrance due to skateboarding.
- Discussed rise of illegal drug activity at Alford Lake and what Park Station is doing to control it.
- Discussed upcoming Cole Street Fair (Oct. 19) and coordinated volunteer times.

CVIA Executive Board Members: Chuck Canepa, Nancy Corsaut, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmery, Carole Glosenger, Douglas Hall, Marianne Hesse, Richard Shadoian.

Neighborhood Crime

All "Part 1 Crimes" (which include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, auto boosting [stealing from cars], other larceny and motor vehicle theft) are down excepting for the latter category, motor vehicle theft.

Auto thefts were up 125% in the month of August and up 144% from the same period in 2002. Preliminary review indicates many of these are occurring in the areas of Alamo Square, Buena Vista Park and near McAllister and Scott streets.

The staff of the Park District Station is currently working on a prevention/enforcement plan and will discuss it at future police community meetings, which are held on the last Thursday of each month.

Not Being Heard?

The S.F. Chronicle is currently playing ombudsman for city residents through their feature Chronicle Watch. If your pleas have been ignored by City Hall, public humiliation may be the last resort. If selected, your complaint will be published and pressure will be applied. Contact Chronicle Watch at 777-7170 or e-mail: chroniclewatch@schronicle.com.

49ers Return to Kezar

On Monday, Aug. 25, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., the San Francisco 49ers returned to their roots when they held an open practice at Kezar Stadium to kick off their 2003 season.

Like all other events at Kezar, the 49ers rented the stadium through the Recreation & Park Dept. The event was free, but passes were required to limit attendance to 4,500.

Approximately 4,000 fans came to the nostalgic and enjoyable event, which paid homage to the S.F. 49ers' early years at Kezar. The highlight of the evening was a ceremony honoring 72 yr. old Hall of Famer, Bob St. Clair. Two years ago the field was named Bob St. Clair Field by Rec. & Park. St. Clair was born and raised in San Francisco and is the only player in the history of the NFL to play high school, college and professional football on the same home



The San Francisco 49ers called Kezar Stadium home from 1946 to 1972

field. He attended Polytechnic High School across from Kezar, University of San Francisco and played for the 49ers from 1953-64. He played a total of 189 games at Kezar. Plaques at the entrances to the stadium bearing the new name of the field were dedicated at this practice event.

The evening was filled with excitement and the enthusiasm of true 49er fans. The weather was warm and sunny, unlike the old days where the players often ran through the wind, fog and seagulls.

As a native San Franciscan who was raised across from Kezar, the event had a special significance for me. In the mid 50s and 60s my father would take me to the Kezar parking lot after the games to



In 2001 the playing field was renamed in honor of former 49er Bob St. Clair

get autographs of some of the players. I remember meeting players like Y.A. Tittle, R. C. Owens, Joe Perry, Leo Nomellini, Hugh McElhenney and, of course, Bob St. Clair. Memories of this came to my mind as I watched and heard Bob St. Clair speak—joined by friends and fellow teammates, including Hall of Famers, Y.A. Tittle, R. C. Owens, Joe Perry, former 49ers, players from USF and a few Poly High classmates.

In the late 50s and early 60s when the fans were very enthusiastic, my mother, sister and I stood watch over our

house making certain no one climbed over our yard making their way atop our roof to watch the games. Only the men (my father and uncles) got to watch the game from that perch. This time, my 83 yr. old mother, my brother, his son and I sat proudly inside Kezar watch-

ing 49ers like Jeff Garcia and Terrell Owens warm-up on the side lines, scrimmage and practice with their teammates.

In the old days, the 49er games at Kezar took over the entire east end of Golden Gate Park. Imagine 60,000 fans all coming from different directions, on foot, by car, from public transportation, trotting through our neighborhood for the Sunday home games. For many, the thrill and excitement of the games became a regular part of our lives. At times though, the games were a bit of an inconvenience. We walked to Church on Sundays because if we took our car, we would never find parking when we returned. If I had homework to do, I would go to the former UCSF Medical Library for some quiet in order to study. *A point of history:* I would get to the library by walking up Arguello Blvd., which in those days, extended from Frederick St. all the way to Parnassus. According to historians, Arguello was the steepest street in San Francisco. It was cobble stone with hundreds of tiny steps on both sides of the street. Anyone climbing the street got quite a workout. In the late 60s or early 70s when UCSF built the clinic building on Parnassus and the garage, Arguello was shortened to extend only between Carl/Irving and Frederick streets.

At the end of the special practice event, the 49ers lined up along the edge of the field to sign autographs for the fans. I was lucky to get Bob St. Clair's once again. The evening was a homage to both the old and the new as thousands of thrilled fans were filled with that wonderful San Francisco "spirit," excited to watch their team return to their original home.

—Estela Becerra

But Who Will Fix the Sidewalks?

David Hatfield over at the Friends of Rec and Park tells us that a 15 member Urban Forest Council has been formed, supported by the Department of the Environment's Urban Forest Program. It will serve as the city's clearinghouse for urban forest planning and will help develop guidelines, prepare reports, coordinate with other agencies and fundraise for urban forest projects.

But I want to know who's taking care of the sidewalks that are destroyed by tree roots? Who is seeing to it that dead and sick trees



Property changes hands without new owners being aware of their responsibility for proper watering, pruning and repair of the sidewalk from root growth.

are removed and that proper pruning is done on a regular basis? Sure, property owners are technically responsible but there are too many absentee owners and blasé citizens who don't report problems. Anyway, if you share these concerns, you can get on the Urban Forest Council mailing list at www.sfgov.org/sfenvironment/aboutus/ mailing_list.

—Karen Crommie

“Progressives” Kill Care Not Cash

Last month, the supervisors voted down Care Not Cash, Gavin Newsom's homeless initiative that the voters had approved by nearly 60% last November. A local judge had ruled that only the supes, not the voters, could change the way welfare benefits are paid, punting the matter to the supes.

With a vote of five in favor, and six opposed, the supes decided to overrule the voters. The five in favor were Bevan Dufty, Jake McGoldrick, Gavin Newsom, Aaron Peskin, and Gerardo Sandoval. The six against were Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, Matt Gonzalez, Tony Hall, Fiona Ma, and Sophie Maxwell.



In spite of Newsom's efforts, S.F. will still hand out cash.

Speaking in favor of the measure, Gavin Newsom said “the guarantees [for services for the homeless] are there. This year's budget lays out funds for them, including \$440,000 for behavioral issues and \$1.4 million for alcohol and drug treatment. Money is available for training those who deal with the homeless and for improving conditions in the shelters.”

Tom Ammiano spoke against. “We need housing over shelter,” he said. He said Newsom

is like the U.S. authorities in Vietnam who falsified the body counts of American soldiers killed in action.

Tony Hall also spoke against. The issue for him is “how Care Not Cash was presented to the voters.” They were misled by false information,” he said. “The report by Budget Analyst Harvey Rose proved that the services cannot be provided by Care Not Cash.”

Board president Matt Gonzalez, stepping down from the chair, spoke against. “The measure does not provide its promised services,” he said. “You don't have to be a mathematician to figure that out. The numbers don't add up. Reducing cash disbursements to addicts does not take away their addictions. The result will be an increase in crimes in the city.”

In response to his critics, Newsom said the homeless death counts from 1997 to 1999 were based on accurate studies, in contrast to last year's report. They showed that the majority of homeless deaths were due to “drug and alcohol poisoning.”

He said the claim that crime would go up if the city stopped subsidizing homeless addicts was “a red herring.” In other cities that cut off direct cash payments to homeless addicts, the crime rate did not escalate. “Drug users have no incentive to stop if the city underwrites their addictions.”

During the debate, Trent Rohr, Director of the Department of Human Services, and Harvey Rose, the board's Budget Analyst, had a sharp exchange. Rohr said “We can implement Care Not Cash within budget,” based on other counties' experiences. He said that people will drop off the welfare rolls and that he had provided figures to Harvey Rose.

Jake McGoldrick was the only other supe to speak in favor. Harvey Rose's report, said McGoldrick, didn't disprove Care Not Cash. It only showed that the city will have to spend more money than supposed. “We should build on Rose's report to provide the needed care.” Turning to Hall, he said “we will have to spend more money.” Care Not Cash provides the blueprint of how to do that, he said.

The chamber was packed with homeless advocates. Most refused to stand for the pledge of allegiance at the beginning. They repeatedly booed Newsom when he spoke. One person shouted “Sieg Heil,” others made a Nazi salute, and one screamed “piece of shit.” They jeered at McGoldrick when he said he would vote for the measure.

Although the homeless advocates got their way on Care Not Cash, they weren't satisfied. They didn't like a companion measure sponsored Newsom and Hall. The supes voted overwhelmingly to table it (sending it to limbo), but that wasn't enough. The homeless advocates wanted to see the measure voted down.

In response to the vote to table, they blew whistles and started screaming “No justice, no peace!” The proceedings came to a standstill, and sheriff's deputies cleared the chamber.

During the meeting, Newsom remained calm, articulate, and dignified in the face of obscenities and taunts from the homeless advocates. Laid-back board president Gonzalez made a few requests for order but they seemed perfunctory and proved to be ineffective.

Newsom has done well in the face of two sets of obstacles. On one side are the doctrinaire progressives. They're captives of the homeless industry and don't want to see challenges to the status quo.

On the other side is the dysfunctional Department of Human Services. Its director seems to be as inept as most of Mayor Brown's appointees. His incompetence did as much to sink Care Not Cash as the progressives' recalcitrance.

Nonetheless, the last word on the issue is yet to be heard. The city has appealed the local judge's ruling that punted Care Not Cash to the supes. If the judge is overruled, as he often is, the will of the people will yet prevail.

—Arthur Evans

CVIA News via email

Sometimes CVIA sends out timely alerts or announcements about events via email between newsletters. If you have not recently received such a notice lately, perhaps we don't have your current email address. If you want to receive these messages, please send a message to cviastf@aol.com and we'll update your information. If you're receiving the messages and don't want to, let us know and we'll remove you from our email list.



Buena Vista Park's 23rd Annual Tree Planting

Saturday, November 15

9:00 to Noon

In cooperation with SF Recreation & Parks Dept.



This year, we'll plant in an area above the Tennis Courts, up from the Duboce Steps at the intersection of Buena Vista East, Duboce, and Buena Vista Terrace.

In addition to planting jobs for all ages, skills, and energy levels, there'll be refreshments, exhibits and a chance for neighbors and Buena Vista Park supporters to have some fun.

L-o-o-ng Term Parking Debate

Following a meeting lasting until 1:30 a.m., the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to keep the proposed Music Concourse parking garage project moving forward.

By an 8-3 vote, the Board voted to reject an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of an environmental impact report (EIR) on the privately financed, \$50 million project. Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly and Board President Matt Gonzalez voted to support the appeal, which would have forced the reopening of the environmental impact report.

The Board's decision moves the process ahead to a hearing in front of the Planning Commission, who will determine if the project is in compliance with the city's General Plan. The project must then gain approval from the Concourse Authority's Board of Directors, the Recreation and Park Department, the Board of Supervisor's Finance Committee and the full Board of Supervisors before any construction can begin.

Clouding the progress of the project, however, was a pledge by opponents to file suit to stop the project. The group, called the Save Golden Gate Park!, argued that the EIR was insufficient.

—David Hatfield, Friends of Rec. and Park

Haight Toilet Finally Approved

It's final. On October 8, the city's Board of Appeals upheld a permit issued earlier this year, for the installation of a Decaux self-cleaning toilet on Masonic, near the corner of Haight.

It is a personal victory for neighborhood activist Flip Sarrow, who spent over five years working to make it happen. It is also a victory for the Haight Ashbury merchants who were barraged with requests by shoppers to use their employee facilities. There is already one Decaux toilet at the west end of Haight on Stanyan but



The designated site is on Masonic near the northwest corner of Haight.

that's a long walk for someone who is shopping near Masonic. The lack of rest room facilities in the Haight shops is attributable to the old buildings which frequently do not have first floor back room space to accommodate the large public toilets now required by city code. This was not viewed as a victory by everyone. Tenants in the building at 1159 Masonic face the reality of having the toilet on the site their front door.

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 cocktail napkins. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 624 Ashbury St. or cviasf@aol.com.

Walgreens and Beyond

Our recent experience negotiating with Walgreens over their new store on Parnassus and Stanyan, found the company willing to make some concessions to the neighborhood. They both reduced the size of their signs and the wattage of the exterior lighting. Many have expressed relief that the signs are as small as they are. However the residents living immediately next to the parking lot object to the size of the sign recently placed there.

Walgreens had permits and signed a 40-year lease before anyone in the neighborhood or Supervisor Gonzalez was notified. We expressed our concerns to Walgreens—as you saw in your CVIA newsletters, but we didn't have a lot of leverage. They were in compliance with the city's ordinances both with regard to size and type of business.

The concerns that remain are the impact to traffic and safety, especially with regard to the parking lot. Because of the way it is currently striped, cars have to back out onto Stanyan to exit the lot.



Neighbors are generally satisfied with Walgreens exterior.

The Walgreens manager was not willing to consider restriping to eliminate some of the spaces but did say that if our predictions about the added traffic that the store generates is a problem, they would be willing to talk about some of our proposals.

In the meantime, Supervisor Matt Gonzalez has introduced legislation to prevent other chain stores from entering a neighborhood without notification. Our question now is: do we want a complete ban on chains or do we simply want neighborhood notification? What constitutes a chain? (Keep in mind that stores like Real Food, Tulley's and Pharmaca are members of small chains.)

We may set up a community meeting with Gonzalez about this issue. We are eager to have know the opinions of CVIA members. The legislation is available through Gonzalez's office or by request at cviasf@aol.com.

—Joan Downey

Buena Vista Park Renovation

Following a recent community meeting to review the plans, the Rec. and Park Commission in September approved the concept plan for the Buena Vista Park Southeast Hillside Erosion Control Project.

The Project will renovate a long-neglected area of the Park, above Buena Vista East, between Upper Terrace and Duboce Streets, and from the street up to the former Service Road. Neighborhood-based planning for the estimated \$2.4 million project continues, and all friends and neighbors of Buena Vista Park are invited to participate.

For more information contact Richard Magary of Buena Vista Neighborhood Association (BVNA) and Friends of Buena Vista Park (FoBVP) at 431-2359 or e-mail FoBVP@earthlink.net.

New President for CVIA

At the annual CVIA summer meeting, the members elected 10-year board member, Douglas Hall to be their new president. Dr. Hall, former senior research social scientist at SRI International,



In his acceptance speech, Dr. Hall playfully promised that his administration would "end corruption."

has a major interest in architecture and has contributed regularly to this newsletter. Reelected were Richard Shadoian (vice-president) and Marianne Hesse (treasurer). Lena Emmery remains the head of membership and Nancy Corsaut continues CVIA's community relations.

Outgoing president Joan Downey was presented a plaque by board member Lena Emmery, commending her for outstanding work over the past three years. She will be remembered for spearheading CVIA's advocacy for better public transit, for an extensive tree planting program in Cole Valley, for street cleanups, for after-school



Lena Emmery, responding to a remark from the crowd, presents Joan Downey a commendation from the CVIA board for her years of outstanding community leadership.

tutoring, for her seminal work establishing the district coalition 5Together, for her work on the recent Heart of Cole street fair and her tireless efforts to force the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority to comply with the precepts of Prop J in their development of the band concourse.

—Karen Crommie

Post-Election With David Binder

Hear David Binder's analysis of the mayoral and DA's election results. Find out how and why District 5 voted as they did and what it means. What are the predictions for the sure-to-be runoff?

SF5Together, District 5's community coalition and information clearinghouse is hosting David Binder at their November 5th meeting—just one day after San Francisco's municipal election. Binder is well-known for his analysis of the results of local elections. He probes the attitudes of the public and voters and he often serves as an independent monitor of election trends and returns for election officials and media organizations.

Binder has served as political analyst for San Francisco's KPIX TV and is also a frequent commentator and political analyst for San Francisco's ABC, NBC, and FOX TV stations. David has appeared on National Public Radio and provides commentary on KCBS Newsradio and KQED radio's "Forum." He is frequently quoted in major California newspapers, as well as the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, the Boston Globe, and USA Today.

November 10 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Northern Police Station, Turk and Fillmore. Rides available for CVIA members—call 564-9416 or e-mail cviast@aol.com.
—Cheryl Brodie

The Squeaky Wheel on the 37

A Muni rider recently wrote to Bevan Dufty, District 8 supervisor, stating that "with exasperating regularity, the 37 Corbett line is off schedule, exercising an unacceptable level of service. It isn't unusual at all for this bus to be up to an hour behind schedule, when it is to arrive every 15 minutes during commute hours and when it does arrive, the bus is so overloaded as to be unsafe for the riders." This rider also posted notices along the route encouraging others to make their complaints known. And they did.

The letter was passed on to the MTA Citizen's Advisory Council which received a report from Jim Kelly, Senior Operations Manager, Service Operations. He outlined a number of changes that should make the 37 Corbett service more reliable.

- Muni has a priority for which lines will be filled, even if there is a shortage of operators or busses. The 37 has been added to the "must fill high priority" runs.
- All drivers on the line have been made aware of the passengers concern. Central Control dispatchers have been issued instructions on the service adjustments they are to implement when service is missing or a coach breaks down on the 37 Line.
- The busses scheduled for 3:00 p.m. are starting 15 minutes earlier to get to the line in a timely manner.
- A dedicated Orion coach has been put on hold exclusively to be used in case of a coach failure on the line.
- Service Operations has assigned a dedicated inspector on Church Street to the line until it settles down.

A lot of attention is being given to resolve the service issues on the 37 Line and improvements to service should be evident shortly.

—Joan Downey

If you have a comment or complaint with Muni, call 923-6164 or select "Contact Us" on www.sfmuni.com. If your comment or complaint is not resolved or is more general in nature, let the MTA CAC know either in person or by letter. Contact information is on the Muni website www.sfmuni.com—select Community Rider Info/Boards and Committees/Citizens' Advisory Council/About the CAC or call 554-6873.

Oh, Put a Sock in It

The Observer (free monthly newspaper) recently tried to fan the flames of controversy over the tenant for the ground floor of the new Haight Street building replacing the I Beam. Why? Because it's taking up two storefronts instead of one. Big deal.

The large building nearing completion on the north side of Haight between Cole and Shrader—and adjacent to Goodwill—is a mixed use structure containing 32 residential units. The ground floor



As the large, mixed-use building on Haight nears completion, questions arise over the division of retail space.

was designated for five small shops, duplicating the number in the former building. However, owner John Brennan got a call from Urban Outfitters who persuaded him that they would be a good fit for the neighborhood. And indeed, with their electric, youth-oriented merchandise at rock bottom prices, this would seem to be the case.

Brennan says Urban Outfitters is taking approximately 4,800 square feet, not the 20,000 square feet reported in the Observer. This consist of the ground floor area between Goodwill and the entrance to the building's apartments. There will still be spaces for three additional small shops on the west side of the entrance.

Sure, it would be nice if it complied with the 2,500 square feet limit and if the lessee were a bank, bakery or copy shop. Most of all, Haight Street needs a drugstore but, of course, that will never happen. So, here in the real world, if we are to be a international youth tourist Mecca, let it be clothes and furnishings rather than head shops and tattoo parlors.

Market in the Panhandle?

For over a year now, there has been neighborhood interest in the possibility of a farmers' market in the paved area of the Panhandle east of the children's playground. The Panhandle Residents Organization/Stanyan Fulton has had a number of discussions about it and at its last meeting voted in favor of exploring the idea.



Although we have gathered some preliminary information, we would like to get the reaction of the rest of the neighborhood. A project such as this calls for wider community input and action. We would like to hear what CVIA members think, especially those living near the Panhandle

Now is a good time to arrange things for the 2004 spring harvest and it would be a treat to work together on this project! Please e-mail me at MHBriscoe@PacBell.net or call 346-1448.

—Mary Helen Briscoe

Traffic Circles Controversy

The Department of Parking and Traffic's five "demonstration" traffic circles on Page and Waller streets have been in place for three months now and the response has been remarkable. There seems to be no one who is neutral. People either think the circles are the best thing since the Internet or that they're a dark conspiracy to kill pedestrians and diminish fire protection.

This controversy has sent neighbors complaining to supervisors and the Fire Department as well as DPT. Page Street resident Connie Kullberg has been particularly articulate in her opposition. In a letter to DPT she reports, "Cars, now knowing there are no stop signs, speed through the intersection and, being unfamiliar with roundabouts, disregard the standard rules of right of way."

A vote, yea or nay, by residents living in close proximity to the circles had been scheduled for October 3, but the day came and went without a peep from DPT. Nick Carr, DPT's project manager, says



The traffic circle at Ashbury and Page is one of five getting mixed reviews.

that the Fire Department is still doing testing and apparently has some serious considerations about navigating around them. The original plan was that fire trucks would simply go over (through) the circles in an emergency, but every time a fire truck leaves the station it's a potential emergency.

Since the circles were funded by a grant secured by the politically powerful Bicycle Coalition, environmentalists are weighing in with their usual clout. Acting through the city's Bicycle Program, they persuaded the Bay Area Air Quality Management District that traffic circles might improve rights-of-way for bicyclists and pedestrians while decreasing vehicle emissions resulting from braking and acceleration. If they are approved there would be 9 permanent circles on Page Street at the intersections of Shrader, Cole, Clayton, Ashbury, Central, Lyon, Baker, Broderick and Scott and two on Waller at Scott and Steiner Streets.

Said Carr, "No vote will occur until the Fire Department has completed its tests. If they decide the traffic circles impede the delivery of emergency services, there will be no vote and no traffic circles.

—Karen Crommie

Classical Vision of Cole Valley

Was Cole Valley actually "saved" as a residential neighborhood by the Big One? Before the 1906 Earthquake, Cole Valley was slated



Burnham's sketch shows the Cole Valley amphitheater as he envisioned it.

for quite a different kind of development. According to the Burnham Plan, which was adopted by the city's Board of Supervisors in September, 1905, Cole Valley would have become a grand amphitheater.

In Burnham's words, "This amphitheater would recall by its location, the stadium in the hills at Delphi, which overlooks the Gulf of Corinth, and the theater of Dionysus, at the foot of the Acropolis, from which the Piraeus and the Sea of Aegina come finally into view."

The Burnham Plan had been commissioned in 1904 by a group of San Francisco's leading citizens, who were concerned that the city was beginning to lose its absolute West Coast dominance to



The same vantage point today from Twin Peaks Blvd., just below Tank Hill, looking northwest towards Point Reyes and the Marin Coast.

such upstarts as Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle. If the commonplace, gridded Victorian city could be transformed into a Paris of the West with grand boulevards and spacious public spaces, surely the challenges of other cities would be swept away.

The group approached the nationally known Chicago architect and planner, Daniel Burnham. Burnham had achieved fame as the chief designer of the 1893 Columbian Exposition, and was a leading proponent of the City Beautiful movement. He agreed to create a plan for San Francisco, and was installed with his staff in a small building on the upper slope of Twin Peaks designed by San Francisco's leading architect of the time, Willis Polk.

The Plan was to be realized over a period of 50 years, but when most of the city was destroyed by the earthquake and fire less than a year after its' adoption, some thought it fortuitously could guide the reconstruction. But most just wanted to get the city up and running again without taking time to make property line or any other adjustments to accommodate the Plan. Besides, all the beautiful, original architectural renderings, including that of the Cole Valley amphitheater, had burned in the City Hall.

—Douglas Hall

Postscripts

No one can deny that Chris Cunnie is an important contributor to San Francisco's social safety net and particularly here in the Haight. The head of the S.F. Police Officers Association has just accepted the board chairmanship of Walden House. As if that isn't enough, he also serves on the board of the Hamilton Family Center (also in the Haight) as well as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Serenity House and the state's Narcotic Addiction Evaluation Authority. While growing up in the Mission District in the 70s, Cunnie saw a lot of people involved in drugs and alcohol who were in need of treatment. As a result, he says, "I have a passion for the field."

* * *

Pablo Heising has once again organized the annual Halloween Walk circling Haight Street from Masonic to Shrader. Beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 31, hundreds of children from DeAvila School will descend on Haight Street eager to receive treats from over 60 participating merchants.

* * *

Thanks to CVIA members who turned out in force for the candidates forum sponsored by our districts umbrella group, "5Together." It was standing room only on September 3 at UCSF's Cole Hall. Although only the major candidates were invited, both Jim Reid



and Michael Denny managed to squeeze themselves into center seats behind the speakers table, shoving invited latecomers like Ammiano to the side. Michael Krasny moderated with predictable grace, skillfully selecting probing questions from the stack submitted by the audience. Gavin Newsom didn't appear, sending his regrets only a couple of days prior to the event. Krasny's offhand speculation that he (Newsom) might have been at the opening of the symphony, which was the same night, prompted irate letters to the editor by kneejerk class warriors. But, alas, in fact, Newsom attended three rather unglamorous community functions that night.

* * *

In the last issue we listed six shops going out of business on Haight St. Now there's two more—both "neighborhood serving." One is Ritz Camera and the other is Quality Wash and Dry. Both were highly utilized by Haight residents but were apparently unable to generate the revenue to compete with tourist-oriented stores. FTC, the sports gear company, will be moving into the former location of Hoy's Sports. While Cornelia Reich's Solo at the corner of Haight and Clayton has been replaced by a tattoo parlor. Yes, another one.

* * *

As written in three consecutive newsletters, the city's proposed policy (Housing Element) for increased density in transit corridors is progressing almost unreported by the city's two newspapers. The last hearing was on October 9 when neighborhood residents came en

masse to city hall to plead that a housing crisis no longer exists and rezoning for greater density in transit corridors without parking requirements would create a nightmare in these districts.

* * *

Public art is scarce around here, that's why I was delighted to see a new sculpture up on Parnasus in front of UCSF's Kalmanovitz library. It's a bronze tree with enormous roots overpowering ancient tomes. It's called "Regardless of History" by British sculptor Bill Woodrow. Go take a look.



* * *

If you have a burglar alarm, remember that there's now a charge for false alarms. The first time they look the other way. (Anyone can make a mistake, right?) But the second time the cops come out

for naught you'll be billed \$100. If it happens again, the hit is \$150. And it just keeps going up. This has come about because 90% of all alarms answered by the police are false, costing the taxpayers millions of dollars a year. As my grandfather used to say, "He who pays, learns."

* * *

Neighbor Arthur Evans sent us this item with the remark, "At last someone has said it." It's a quote from Gavin Newsom printed in the Chronicle on September 30. "Graffiti matters. Bathrooms that are dirty matter. Divots in parks matter . . . It's the little things that matter, that build pride and confidence."

* * *

And finally, there's a small but delicious shop on Oak at Shrader called Juicy. There's no fruit involved, just wonderful little thingies. They're only open afternoons from Thursday through Sunday. . . Are you moving? Did you know that you can get a parking permit for the moving van from Park Police Station . . . Supervisor Fiona Ma has undertaken legislation to curb posting of fliers. Write her a letter in support . . . There's a demolition in the works for 510 Belvedere. The existing 2-story single family residence will be replaced by a larger home. Demolitions require a discretionary review and in this case the Planning Department recommends approval when it goes to the commission . . . Auto thefts are up 40% in the district, but Park Station's genial Sgt. Mark Porto adds that recovery of cars is up, too.

—Karen Crommie

CVIA Officers

- President Douglas Hall
- Vice President Richard Shadoian
- Treasurer Marianne Hesse
- Membership Lena Emmerly
- Community Relations Nancy Corsaut
- Special Projects Joan Downey

Cviasf@aol.com

Please contact us by e-mail if you have an issue to bring up, 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.

HELP

- Emergency 911
- Disturbance 553-0123
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks 553-1200
- Abandoned Vehicles 781-5865
- Health Department 255-3610
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.) 695-2017
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal 28-CLEAN
282-5326
- Street Lighting 554-0730
- Mayor Willie Brown 554-6141
City Hall - Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
S.F., CA 94102
- Acting Chief of Police Alex Fagan 553-1551
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F. CA 94103
- District Attorney Terence Hallinan 553-1741
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F. CA 94103
- Captain John Ehrlich 242-3000
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

City Hall - Room 244

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Telephone: 554-5184 FAX: 554-5163

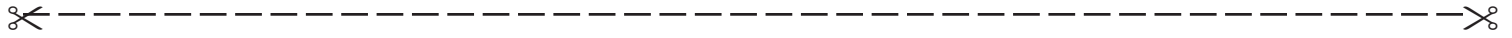
District	Telephone	Fax
1. Jake McGoldrick Jake.McGoldrick@sfgov.org	554-7410	554-7415
2. Gavin Newsom Gavin.Newsom@sfgov.org	554-5942	554-5946
3. Aaron Peskin Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org	554-7450	554-7454
4. Fiona Ma Fiona.Ma@sfgov.org	554-7460	554-7432
5. Matt Gonzalez Matt.Gonzalez@sfgov.org	554-7630	554-7634
6. Chris Daly Chris.Daly@sfgov.org	554-7970	554-7974
7. Tony Hall Tony.Hall@sfgov.org	554-6516	554-6546
8. Bevan Dufty Bevan.Dufty@sfgov.org	554-6968	554-6909
9. Tom Ammiano Tom.Ammiano@sfgov.org	554-5144	554-6255
10. Sophie Maxwell Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11. Gerardo Sandoval Gerardo.Sandoval@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

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 greater Haight Ashbury; preserve the character of its architecture; support the police department in law enforcement efforts; encourage neighborhood serving business; and

be constructively involved in San Francisco's governmental process. Annual dues are \$20.00. 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 \$20.00 made payable to: COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Renewal

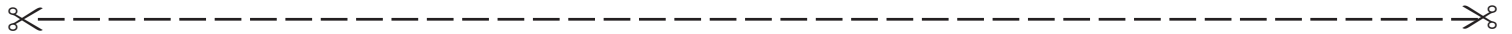
NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

What I like about the Neighborhood: _____

What I dislike about the neighborhood: _____

I would like to help and this is what I can do: _____



Cole Valley Improvement Association

P.O. Box 170611

San Francisco, CA 94117

CVIASF@aol.com