

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XVI

SERVING RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

February 2003

Walgreens Coming to Corner of Parnassus and Stanyan

Cole Valley neighbors, members of the CVIA board, and Supervisor Matt Gonzalez were all surprised in late December to hear that Mt. Sutro Fine Foods was closing and Walgreens was moving into the Stanyan and Parnassus location.

The building owner approached Walgreens two years ago to talk about the possibility and Walgreens started taking out the necessary permits last July. No neighborhood notification was necessary because, according to the city planning code's "neighborhood commercial" zoning, it is not considered a change of use. Opening at this Cole Valley location reflects Walgreens plans to establish 450 new stores in fiscal 2003.

The CVIA board had a mixed reaction to the big chain entering the neighborhood. Some of us feel that too many national chains will make Cole Valley look like any other neighborhood and that



Walgreens has planned to open on this corner for nearly two years.

Walgreens will hurt the new Pharmaca store on Cole Street (also a chain, but a small one). Others felt that since this is a neighborhood-serving business, it deserves our support. We could have done worse: it could have been a Blockbuster or liquor store.

On January 22, the CVIA board and Matt Gonzalez talked with Phil Bolduc, the Walgreens' representative (via phone from the Chicago headquarters) to find out what impact the new store, which will open in late summer 2003, would have on our neighborhood. For the most part we were pleased with the proposed plans:

- The site on 199 Parnassus has 4864 sq. ft. on the first floor and 1,758 sq. ft. on the second floor that will be used for storage. The parking lot is 60 feet wide and there are no plans to change it.

- There will be three signs: two 28 inch high "Walgreens" signs and one 12 inch high "Pharmacy" sign which will be illuminated during business hours. They are willing to work with us on the intensity of the sign lighting. The only other exterior change will be installation of tile up to 3 feet along the bottom edge. The awning will remain, but without current printing.

Haight's Supervisor Elected to Top Job on Board

The election of District 5 Supervisor Matt Gonzalez as president of the Board of Supervisors was not expected. Although few would disagree that he is the brightest and most qualified of the supervisors, he is also known to isolate himself by taking stands sometimes unclear to the public. The former defense attorney and



As board president, Supervisor Matt Gonzalez decides on the composition of committees that can determine the fate of legislation.

native Texan is also the board's only Green Party member, putting him outside the sphere of influence of the city's powerful Democratic party. Nevertheless, he is widely respected for his thoughtful and knowledgeable opinions, even by those who consider the progressive left (of which he counts himself a member) at odds with the general well-being of the city. ☞

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Gonzalez is most closely associated with successfully getting instant run-off voting and changing the position of San Francisco supervisor into a full-time position with pay determined by Civil Service. He is an advocate of the city extending its commitment to subsidized housing in the form of community land trusts, he has advocated doubling the real estate transfer tax, and circumscribing the power of the mayor. He fought unsuccessfully to reduce cars in Golden Gate Park by closing a portion of JFK Drive on Saturday in addition to Sunday (*see related article on pg. 9*) and to instate a minimum wage in San Francisco.

In his most courageous and misunderstood act, he tried to bring the discredited Housing Authority under the control of the board. This triggered a baptism of fire for the then new supervisor as hundreds of public housing constituents stormed a hearing at City Hall.

In the last election he was opposed to Care Not Cash and worked to get Greens on the school board. On the other hand, he is firmly opposed to bond measures, feeling that taxes alone should pay for the operation of the city.

Only two days before the board vote, he had attended the January CVIA board meeting held at the home of CVIA president Joan Downey. When she asked him what he thought his chances were of becoming board president, he smiled and said softly, "Let me answer that by saying I wouldn't go out and wager any great sum of money on it."

His appraisal was correct, for what happened could hardly be anticipated. Haught writer Arthur Evans, who was present that day in the supervisors' chambers, reports in the column to the right, on the sequence of events resulting in Gonzalez's victory.

— Karen Crommie

Walgreens—Continued from Page 1

- Their hours of operation will be 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. These hours may change, shorter or longer, if shopping patterns warrant.
- Deliveries will be during business hours, normally three days a week. Trucks will use the existing receiving area in the parking lot.



CVIA board members and Supervisor Gonzalez speak with Walgreens' real estate manager, Phil Bolduc, on a speakerphone at City Hall.

- No alcohol will be sold. Walgreens is out of this market.
- Consistent with their pharmacy business, Walgreens is committed to keeping the store and area around the store clean.

CVIA will request that Walgreens consider the following changes to discourage car traffic and better fit into our neighborhood:

- Accommodate bicycle parking.
- Offer delivery service.
- Give a discount to patrons who have a Muni Fast Pass or transfer.
- Change the Parnassus Street yellow zone parking to a green zone, since delivery trucks will use the parking lot.
- Solicit neighborhood input before changing hours of operation.
- Restripe the parking lot, if possible, so that cars do not have to back out onto Stanyan Street to exit.

—Joan Downey

What I Saw at the Board of Supervisors on January 8, 2003

They made Matt Gonzalez their new president today. The crucial vote came on the seventh ballot, when Gonzalez defeated Sophie Maxwell by 6 to 5, the bare number needed.

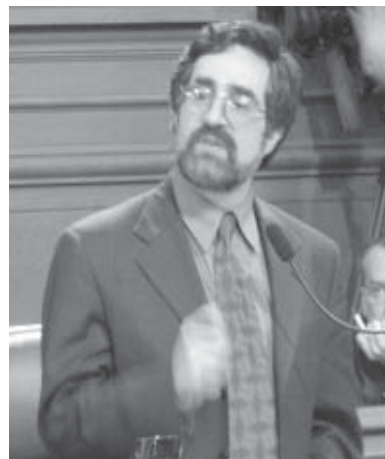
Supporting Gonzalez, besides himself, were Chris Daly, Tony Hall, Jake McGoldrick, Aaron Peskin, and Gerardo Sandoval. Supporting Maxwell, besides herself, were Tom Ammiano, Bevan Dufty, Fiona Ma, and Gavin Newsom.

The first six ballots produced a stalemate among Gonzalez, Maxwell, and Peskin. Gonzalez and Peskin originally got four votes each, and Maxwell, three.

Daly, Hall, and Sandoval supported Gonzalez. Ammiano, Ma, and McGoldrick supported Peskin. Dufty and Newsom supported Maxwell. That same pattern repeated itself for six ballots.

The breakthrough came an hour and a half into the meeting, when Peskin dramatically rose and withdrew. "We should know that there is, indeed, unity," he said, releasing his supporters to vote their second choices.

Prior to Peskin's dramatic statement, they wrangled over who should step aside. Daly said Maxwell should withdraw and release her supporters. "Absolutely not," Dufty bluntly replied.



When Sophie Maxwell, the lowest vote getter, refused to withdraw, Aaron Peskin gamely removed himself from the running.

Gonzalez said to Maxwell and her supporters "What principle are you now standing on? Help me understand."

Sandoval chimed in, saying to Maxwell "Release your supporters. We are making a charade of these proceedings."

Maxwell rose, turned to Sandoval, and said "We all need six votes. I ask you to consolidate behind my candidacy. Let's build a consensus that will help the southeastern part of the city."

Peskin's release of his supporters broke the logjam, an action that came across as statesmanlike. After the 6 to 5 result that followed, they agreed to make the vote unanimous, in the tradition of the old district-elected board.

The most fiery nominating speech was made by Tony Hall, on behalf of Gonzalez. Although coming from opposite ends of the ideological spectrum, Hall and Gonzalez have developed a good working relationship, and each has a reputation as a straight-shooter.

Hall said Gonzalez was needed to counteract "the political machine." He said "We should be cognizant of that machine. It has torn the city apart." The board needs a leader "who is man enough to stand up. You know in your heart what's right."

Bevan Dufty nominated Maxwell. "I've worked with Maxwell as an activist," he said. "She has grace and respect. She wins the support of people. She can provide leadership and cohesion."

Fiona Ma, who nominated Peskin, said little, except that her candidate has "fiscal sense."

After the final vote, Gonzalez was escorted to the dais. "That was a difficult process for all of us," he said. "I am still one vote among equals. The city can tolerate good debate, but battles must be conducted in an honorable way."

—Arthur Evans

Neighbors Foil Bicycle Thief on Alpine Terrace

Bicycle theft is a huge problem in San Francisco. For the most part owner and machine are seldom reunited but on January 2nd such a thing happened on Alpine Terrace. It was thanks to sharp eyed neighbors who noticed odd behavior from an individual loitering on the street looking into alleyways and stairwells and looking just a bit too "cool." He was a cleanly dressed and well groomed individual who could easily have been ignored, however the neighbors called each other and observed him before calling the police.



Police say that recovered bicycles, without engraved IDs, are hard to match with owners.

By the time the police arrived the individual had broken into a side alley further down the street and stolen two bicycles. He and the bikes were taken away by the police. Later that day when the owners returned home and discovered their loss they reported it to the police but were not furnished with the information about the events that had occurred earlier in the day. They thought that they had seen the last of their bikes. But the neighbors started calling each other again and the facts fell into place. Owners and bikes were reunited.

So please make a New Year's resolution to get to know your neighbors, share phone numbers and report suspicious activity.

—Rosemary Southwood

Garden Show Coming Up

Friends of Rec and Park is looking forward to once again hosting The San Francisco Flower and Garden Show's Opening Night Party. This year it will be "A French Country Picnic" on Tuesday, March 18, at the Cow Palace. This unique event is the largest fund-raiser enabling us to support invaluable programs that revitalize, reforest, and restore San Francisco parks and playgrounds. Golden Gate Park's diverse and little-known assets will be showcased at the Party. Be the first to see 25 magnificent gardens created by leading landscape architects, artists and gardeners from the region. Tickets for the Party are \$150 each, or you can become a Patron which includes all-access tickets to the San Francisco Flower and Garden show as well as tickets to the Opening Night Party. Patron levels run from \$500 to \$25,000. We appreciate your investment in the future of San Francisco parks, and we look forward to seeing you at this party that is not to be missed.

—Melissa Fondakowski, Friends of Rec. and Park

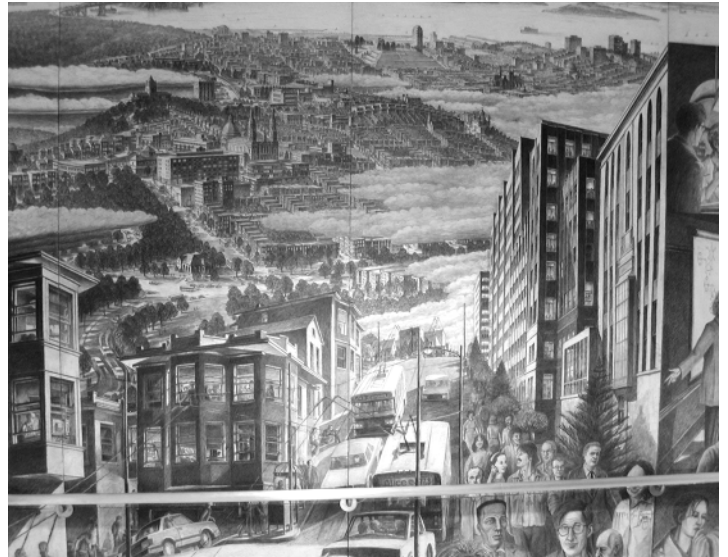


How do you feel about the coming of Walgreens to Cole Valley? Send us a message at cviasf@aol.com or at 431-1414.

UCSF Unveils Gigantic Mural

A mural of local history and the people who made it are featured in a stunning 72 foot long black and white mural on the wall of the second floor rotunda of the Medical Sciences building at 513 Parnassus.

A team from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, led by Professor of Architecture Douglas Cooper, worked with UCSF staff, patients and volunteers to depict city scenes from the past and



In an ingenious alteration of perspective, Douglas Cooper gives a 360 degree rendition of the city that includes an indictment of Justin Herman's demolition and redevelopment of the Fillmore District.

present including luminaries such as Dashiell Hammett, Joe Dimaggio, Harvey Milk and Joe Montana.

The mural extends 270 degrees around the stairway and portrays a panorama of the city from Golden Gate Park to Mission Bay, where UCSF is building its 43-acre teaching and research campus. It is comprised of charcoal drawings on paper mounted on panels and coated with acrylic varnish.

The Chancellor's Committee on Art Honors and Recognition, whose mission is to acquire art, was approached by Cooper who offered to create the mural. After seeing his proposal, the committee recommended its approval to Chancellor Mike Bishop who made the final decision.

Save Those Last Thursday Nights

Captain Dan Lawson holds community meetings on the last Thursday of every month. In addition to updates on neighborhood safety and law enforcement, **the February meeting will feature a presentation by Muni staff on the fare increase proposal.** Plan to attend each month 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Park Police Station, 1899 Waller at Stanyan.

February 27, March 27, April 24

Call Sgt. Mark Porto for details: 242-3032

Kezar Wants to Raise the Ante

The focus of the Kezar Citizens Advisory Committee at its last meetings has been the review of transportation plans required for events drawing over 5000 at the stadium. There is a push to increase the use and revenue from Kezar by accommodating larger events, drawing as many as 10,000 people. The Committee has been diligent in their insistence that adequate transportation planning be pro-



Larger events at Kezar will heavily impact Frederick Street neighbors. provided for any such event. At the last meeting a transportation management plan was presented by Richard Tilles who has been hired as a transportation consultant by Recreation and Parks. The plan he presented left many questions unanswered. The plan will be modified and brought back to the committee at their next meeting. There is great concern about the effect on the neighborhood of large gatherings. Nearby residents already have to live with the frequent events at Sharon Meadow and the ancillary traffic and ambient noise that are the accompaniment to these gatherings.

—Lena Emmery

SOME FLYING FUR

Plans for a new \$800,000 paddock to house Golden Gate Park's 14 bison are moving ahead, but not without a little dust up.

The Watchbison Committee, which was formed to improve conditions for the herd, has been involved with the Recreation and Park Department in drafting the design of the paddock, but the two sides aren't yet in complete alignment. According to Phil Carleton of Watchbison, "the city just wants to have a showcase for handling buffalo, even if it's not workable."

At issue is the design of a system that efficiently rotates the bison into a series of holding pens, using a squeeze chute and a crash gate. Watchbison has brought in an expert to help with the design and the city has pledged to allow the final draft plan to be reviewed by Watchbison before it is presented to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission.



—David Hatfield, Friends of Rec. and Park

Zazie – Worth the Wait!

How could anyone not notice the long line on the weekend to have brunch at Zazie? I recently spoke with the owner, Catherine Opoix, and as you might have guessed, Saturday and Sunday Brunch



Hearty French bistro fare at a reasonable price makes Zazi a favorite. is the busiest time for this Cole Street eatery. The most popular items from the brunch menu are Eggs Mexico, Ginger Pancakes and a new offering, French Toast Tahiti (French toast with caramelized bananas). Catherine's favorite food to eat from the menu is her wild mushroom risotto and her favorite food to prepare are her heavenly desserts. I recently had dinner at Zazie and for dessert, I chose the Apple Crumble with creme fraiche and it was divine.

Interestingly, this is not the first restaurant that Catherine has owned in the neighborhood. In fact, she owned the restaurant, Eg-lantine, that was in the same location as Zazie many years ago. After she left the space initially, it was reinvented as a Tex Mex restaurant, Canyon Café, under different ownership. It must have been fate that the same space was again available when Catherine decided to open Zazie. She is happy to be back in the neighborhood again and will be celebrating Zazie's 11th anniversary in April. Congratulations Catherine, we wish you continued success and look forward to many more new creations on the menu.

—Nancy Corsaut

CVIA News Featured in Exhibit

The John Adams Campus Library has organized an exhibit of "San Francisco Community Papers," including CVIA News, which will be on display in the library from January 15 through May 15.

The John Adams Campus, formerly Lowell High School, is a part of San Francisco City College and is located at 1860 Hayes Street near Masonic. Library hours are Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 5:00 p.m., Tuesday - Wednesday 9:00 - 8:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. For more information call (415) 561-1946.

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Spring edition should be sent before April 15 to 624 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or dcrommie@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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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.

Tools to Keep Your Neighborhood Free from Handbills.

Did you know that San Francisco has a statute that stops the delivery of unwanted handbills? It's called Public Works Code, Article 5.7, Handbill Distribution on Private Premises, and it obliges anyone wanting to distribute handbills to meet these requirements:

1) Any person seeking to distribute handbills upon private premises shall first apply for a registration number. This registration system allows our city to identify distributors of handbills and enforce the provisions found in Article 5.7.



2) The words "Registration No. _____", with the city issued registration number inserted, must be stamped in a legible manner on each separate handbill.

3) Handbills may not be distributed at your residence if you have posted a "No Handbills" notice. The law states that: "The city has a compelling need to prohibit the distribution of handbills on private premises where the occupant of that premises has expressed his or her unwillingness to receive such handbills."

4) In any case, each handbill must be folded or otherwise attached to the outside of a premise so as to decrease the amount of litter created by handbills. Report violations by phoning **28-CLEAN**.

This statute *could* play an important role in reducing one source of litter from our urban landscape *if* in fact it was being put into practice. Inspect any handbill found littering our streets and sidewalks; you will see that both handbill distributors and the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Street Environmental Services ignore this statute—like numerous other quality of life regulations in San Francisco.

In any event, let's support only those who actively uphold our quality of life, both social and economic. Call Robert Arevalo, Supervisor of Environmental Control Officers, Bureau of Street Environmental Services at 695-2182. Ask him to implement Public Works Code, Article 5.7.

—Rick Thurber

Longtime Haight Character Dies in Santa Cruz

Remember the attractive woman, around forty, who used to hang out in front of Ben and Jerrys? She would offer to take visitors' pictures in front of the Haight and Ashbury street sign. Her name was Liza and when she was good she was very, very good, but when she was bad, well, blame it on the booze. She'd try to get a buck for taking the picture and usually throw in some tourist advice. Last year Liza got sober, began to attend meetings, got a steady boyfriend and moved to Santa Cruz. Things were looking up.

A few weeks ago she was hit by a car while jaywalking. She was hospitalized but checked out early to get back to her apartment and her boyfriend. In the middle of the night he heard a gasp from her side of the bed. He called 911 but Liza never made it. A broken rib had punctured her lung.

Liza was originally from Santa Barbara where she tended bar. In her nearly 12 years on Haight Street, she was a one-woman welcoming committee to untold numbers of visitors. Her behavior on the "bad days" will not be missed but she was nonetheless a real part of our lives for a very long time and will not soon be forgotten.

—Karen Crommie

What's Cooking in the Haight?

Our neighborhood's new contribution to mass media is a television chef. The "Hippy Gourmet" Paul Brennan was featured in a story in the SF Weekly last month. In case the name doesn't ring a bell, Paul Brennan is the brother of Pam Brennan and co-owner of Herb 'N Inn Bed and Breakfast, a few doors down from the intersection of Haight and Ashbury. You've probably seen Paul leading



"Hippie Chef" Paul Brennan has a low key style but closeups of his food handling reveal professional skill born of years of experience.

a tour. He's the affable forty-something wearing a beret and followed by a clutch of tourists eager to see where The Sixties happened. But who knew that he cooked too?

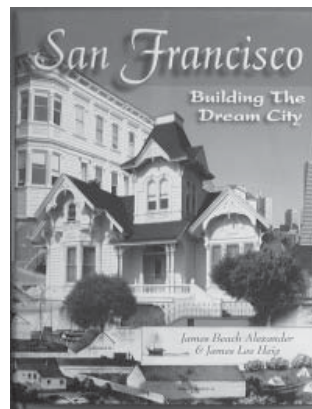
Brennan is starring in a series of videotaped cooking classes produced and directed by James Ehrlich. While dishes are being prepared there are cutaways to local musicians and Haight Street denizens. Says

Brennan, "You step out that door and you know the vortex is working." Although playing up his hippy background, Brennan knows his way around the kitchen having been a professional chef in his youth. The shows are being aired on San Francisco cable Channel 29 on Sundays at 6:30 p.m. and feature familiar dishes with concentration on vegetables, grains and fresh herbs from the backyard of the Brennans' inn.

—Karen Crommie

History in the Neighborhood

James Heig, a resident of our neighborhood, has just published an impressive new book titled, "San Francisco Building the Dream City." The volume is a captivating story of how the city's housing evolved. Not just a pretty book for your coffee table, this thorough history of San Francisco building is also a good read.



The mission of the book is "to explore the intimate connection between people and the structures they built, to show how people changed the city, how the city inspired its citizens, and how San Francisco became, in a new sense, everybody's dream city." The mission is accomplished with

great style. James Beach Alexander and James Lee Heig are the authors. For more information, or to purchase a copy, contact James Heig at 861-1956 or visit the Web site at Scottwallpub.com.

—Lena Emmery



Looking for Articles About Dogs in Cole Valley/Haight

Why aren't we getting news tidbits about dogs in our neighborhood? C'mon, guys. You write it, we'll take the picture. The deadline for our next issue is April 15. Send to CVIA News, 624 Ashbury St., SF 94117 or dcrommie@aol.com or fax: 431-9248.

Let There Be Light, And There Was

With a gloomy outlook for the upcoming Christmas season, Haight business owners talked about improving the ambiance by stringing lights on the trees that line Haight Street. You know, the way they do on Rodeo Drive. K.C. Evans, president of the Haight



Working in the early morning hours, it took two weeks to string the lights.

Merchants Association, talked with Flip Sarrow, neighborhood activist, and a wager was made. Flip said that if K.C. could raise the money to buy the lights, he (Flip), an electrical engineer, would find a way to get the juice.

The contributions rolled in. CVIA ponied up, along with three other neighborhood organizations, 47 businesses and a few private families. The lights were bought at Robert's Hardware and Flip found appropriate electrical hookups for each tree. John Ramirez, working from a cherrypicker for two weeks in the dead of night, was responsible for actually stringing the lights. The project cost \$6,000 and 57 trees were illuminated. They're still there and the old street never looked better. Thanks to K.C., Flip and all the other people who contributed to the effort.

—Karen Crommie

Where Did You Get That Tan?

Colette Duffy is the owner of a tanning salon that just opened on Stanyan called San Francisco Sun. We asked her to tell CVIA members about her new business which occupies the space which for years was Stanyan Printing Service.

Says Colette, "We offer relaxing tanning sessions in our new standard and medium-level beds in a warm, friendly, and clean environment. Many of our customers visit our salon to prepare for a vacation in the sun and need a good base tan, and others come a few times a week to enrich and maintain their tans."

San Francisco Sun is located at 854 Stanyan at Frederick. They provide one hour of validated parking at the Kezar lot. Call 933-7866 to schedule a free tanning session. Walk-ins are always welcome too. Mention CVIA News and your first session is free.

The Board of Supervisors has changed its meeting time to Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. You can watch the meeting broadcast live or in playback during the days following on the city's government Cable Channel 26.

More Signals on Haight Street?

The traffic signals planned for Clayton and Shrader at Haight Street have been put on hold. CVIA joined Rescue Muni in supporting the signals in the hope that they would move traffic, especially the busses, through Haight Street more efficiently and provide more safety for pedestrians. Walk SF, Senior Action Network and HANC



Traffic on Haight Street comes to a standstill at Clayton as cars must wait for a nearly continuous line of pedestrians to cross.

were concerned when they learned that traffic speed has increased on Ashbury from 8 m.p.h. to 12 m.p.h. since the signal was installed and that maybe the same thing would happen at Clayton and Shrader.

While that does not seem a significant reason to put the project on hold, the fact that the Muni busses will not be equipped for "signal preemption" for a couple of years is. "Signal preemption" is when the signal lights (activated by a sensor on the bus) stay green for a few seconds longer so that a Muni bus can get through the light. Postponing the installations will give Muni, DPT, and the Planning Department time to collect more data and study the area. Other ideas to increase traffic flow and pedestrian safety along with, or instead of, traffic lights are constructing "bulb outs" on Shrader Street and shutting off Clayton Street to through traffic.

—Joan Downey

Marie S. Mitchell

January 30, 1904 - October 24, 2002

Condolences are extended to longtime CVIA member Claudia Abernathy on the death of her mother, Marie Stewart Mitchell, who lived on Waller Street for many years. Born in Edwards, Mississippi, she attended Mount Beulah College where her father was a professor. She taught school until her marriage to James Mitchell in 1924. In subsequent years she gave birth to her only child, Claudia, and in 1943 the family moved to San Francisco. She was a founding member of Jones United Methodist Church and served on many church boards and auxiliaries, sang in the choir and spearheaded fund-raising drives. She founded the Willing Workers Circle and was an active member for over 55 years. On November 1, 2002, a celebration of her life took place at the church for which she worked so diligently. Contributions in her memory can be made to the Building Fund of the Jones United Methodist Church, 1975 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

Kid-Friendly Cole Valley

A couple arrived at my home last week to pick up a camera that they purchased from my husband on ebay. They live in a small town outside of Modesto and were amazed to find that we live in the city with two children, ages one and three. "How do you raise your children in the city?" the couple asked. "It must be SO difficult!"

Families that choose to remain in San Francisco, despite all of the obvious obstacles, face this type of question regularly from friends and family in the suburbs. Most families remain because they want their children exposed to, not sheltered from, the colorful neighborhoods and characters that San Francisco has to offer. Overpriced, cramped quarters and parking headaches are considered worthwhile tradeoffs for the privilege of staying in this great city.



Toddlers love the gentle slides and sandy landing at Grattan Park.

Of all the neighborhoods in the city, Cole Valley is a favorite for families with young children. There are almost as many strollers double-parked on Cole Street as there are cars. The following are just a few of the reasons that Cole Valley is such a kid-friendly place:

Grattan Park (1180 Stanyan, www.parks.sfgov.org) is a great place to meet other neighborhood parents. There are two separate playgrounds, one for babies and toddlers and another for older children. The adjacent tennis and basketball courts are often empty and the huge space is great for exercising little legs or riding tricycles. San Francisco Recreation and Parks offers a Tiny Tots program for children 1-5 years of age at Grattan Park on Wednesday mornings from 10-11:30. The kids spend time on the playground, then move inside for storytime, art projects, and snacks.

Randall Museum (199 Museum Way, www.randallmuseum.org) is a place to take the family, rain or shine. The FREE museum has live animal exhibits, a park, playground, and trails. On the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, the Golden Gate Model Railroad Club opens to the public and operates its model trains in the basement of the museum. A picnic lunch on the hill behind the museum overlooking the city is a great way to end the visit.



Also popular with parents of young children is the Park Branch Library (1833 Page). Call 666-7155 for library hours.

Acrosports (639 Frederick Street, www.acrosports.org) runs a Tiny Tot program for 18-36 month olds and tumbling and dance classes for older children. Prepare to line up early on registration day. Acrosports classes are a favorite with parents all over the city.

And of course nothing beats a stroll down **Haight Street** with the kids. The local street theatre is something they will rarely experience if you buy that big house in the East Bay.

—Kim Clark

Concourse EIR Raises Questions

The one-inch thick Golden Gate Park Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was issued in December. It attempts to describe the potential impacts the new 800 space underground parking garage in the Golden Gate Park Music Concourse (approved by voters in the 1998 Prop J) will have on the area. The project also included transportation improvements and the removal of surface parking.

Comments about the adequacy and accuracy of the document are solicited which may result in changes to the document. CVIA



Park advocates contend that the current plan for the Concourse garage differs significantly from that receiving voter support in 1998.

board members have reviewed this document and have found serious flaws that we will report to the Planning Department. Among other things:

- The first principal purpose of Proposition J was the creation of a pedestrian oasis. The DEIR does not define it or describe it. The current design retains the roadways circling the concourse.
- A garage entrance just west of the Academy has been added to the design even though Prop J stated that entrances to the garage would be outside of the Park.
- The construction of the garage, as planned, will destroy the three 107-year old pedestrian tunnels surrounding the Concourse. The two eastern tunnels are to be restored, but neither the budget nor plans support this. The southwest tunnel and its right-of-way will be permanently removed. The tunnels and the pedestrian pathways were granted historic status on January 15th by the Landmark Board.
- The Muni G-line is not mentioned in the DEIR. This proposed line would run historic trolleys from Market Street on the N-line tracks up to 9th Avenue. New tracks would be laid on 9th into the Park Concourse with the turnaround at the bus lot to the west of the Concourse.
- Their garage will have NO natural light or air circulation. They were removed as too costly. It will consume 100,000 watts to open the doors.
- Alternatives exist that will protect the Concourse and its tunnels but they are not discussed in the DEIR. One garage can be built around the DeYoung with NO auto entrances in the Park. Or, in lieu of a garage, a park shuttle (permanently funded) could be used to bring visitors from the 800 empty spaces at the UCSF garage and serve all of the Park. See www.sfpix.com for more information about the project, the DEIR, and what you can do

—Joan Downey

Do You Own Rental Property?

The San Francisco Rent Board has released the annual allowable rent increase for the period that starts on February 28, 2003. The astounding number is .8% (eight tenths of one percent).

As you may know the interest due to tenants on all deposits held by landlords has in the past been 5%, an amount that is not attainable at any bank. The interest rate has been reduced to 3.4% effective as of August 4, 2002.

—Lena Emmery

CVIA Board Actions

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings the last three months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the board are welcome to do so. Meetings 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.

November

- 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.
- Reviewed incorporation: Nancy Corsaut to continue work done by Richard Shadoian.
- Discussed continuing problem of over-amplified music at park events. Agreed to write a letter to Rec and Park requesting they have a staff member of Rec and Park to supervise sound levels during the time of the event 2) direct the speakers at Sharon Meadow to the north or northwest 3) require the posting of a bond before issuing another permit to an events producer who has ignored sound limitations in the past.
- David Crommie to invite the new Rec and Park commissioners to attend upcoming CVIA board meeting.
- Agreed not to oppose the establishment of Walgreens on Haight Street but only if it is a small scale store such as the one on 24th St. Agreed that such a neighborhood-serving business is much needed.
- Agreed that Joan Downey would meet with Muni's Jeff Hamilton about N-Judah tracks.
- Agreed to send a letter to Captain Lawson urging him to enforce the existing leash laws in parks.

(There was no board meeting in December)

January

- 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.
- Agreed to contribute \$50 to both the Friends of the Urban Forest and San Francisco Beautiful.
- Discussed Rec. and Parks plan to book much larger (regional) events into Kezar Stadium. CVIA will request that a transportation study be done first.
- Agreed that 75 extra newsletters would be printed to include in the welcome packets Nancy Corsaut is assembling for new neighbors.
- Special guests Supervisor Matt Gonzalez, legislative aid Rob Eshelman and administrative aid Larry Roberts discussed lack of neighborhood notification with regard to Walgreens plans to open a store at the corner of Stanyan and Parnassus.
- Agreed that CVIA would meet with Walgreens and ask that 1) signage is no larger than that of neighboring businesses, 2) the store closes at 10:00 p.m. 3) the light level from the building lamps and signs are not so bright as to disturb nearby neighbors.

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

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. Let us know what's good, what's bad, who's interesting, what needs to be done. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 624 Ashbury St., dcrommie@aol.com, Fax 431-9248.

The Panhandle Toilet

5 Together, the umbrella organization of supervisorial District 5, recently held a meeting on the restoration of the toilets in the Panhandle. Organizations in the western half of the District have been trying to get this project up-and-running for over 10 years.

Jorge Alfaro, a city architect, presented the site maps and Alan Wong of Rec. and Park's capital division, repeated his mantra "I look forward to the opportunity to work with members of the community, etc."

Rec and Park has \$1.5 to \$1.6 million earmarked for three specific bathroom facilities, one of which is the Panhandle site. John Farley, the Area Supervisor for Rec. and Park, and Wong estimated



Maintenance will always be the main challenge for Panhandle toilets.

the cost of the Panhandle restrooms to be \$650,000. The alternative (and much less expensive) state park style design (which was supported by virtually all the surrounding established groups) was dropped by Dan McKenna and company in favor of the original (and more expensive) design.

Farley cited opposition by tree advocates to repairing or replacing the facility because it might threaten between two and four of the eucalyptus trees surrounding the site. These trees are approximately 70-80 years old and are nearing the end of their growth cycle.

Tys Sniffen of NOPNA (North of the Panhandle Neighborhood Association) mentioned that most of the trees had been "topped off" which frequently damages their cores. Sniffen went further to say that if one were to pick trees for removal, these specific trees would head the list.

Our three Rec and Park reps promised that the Panhandle toilet project would go out to bid in March of 2003.

—Christian Holmer

N-Judah line

Muni has announced plans to remove the Willard Street stop on Carl Street and move the Hillway stop east to the crossover tracks where streetcar drivers have a safety stop anyway. In this three-block stretch between Stanyan and Arguello there are four stops—too many to efficiently operate a light rail system. The neighbors on Carl Street, concerned about safety, noise, and vibration from fast moving trolleys, have requested that Muni institute a slower speed when the stop is removed.

—Joan Downey

Ed. note: N Judah rider Susan Hellein recently wrote the S.F. Examiner saying that she had no criticism of her daily commute excepting that, "The sound of the alert for the stairs to go up and/or down is so piercing one shudders in one's seat. I understand the need for the alert; (but) there's a much more humane bell that the trains make when coming to an intersection. This bell should replace the ... earsplitting, high-pitched buzz that is currently heard."

Ruling Begins to Pave Way for Saturday Closure of JFK

A preliminary report on the projected impact of closing John F. Kennedy Drive in Golden Gate Park on Saturdays will likely give the San Francisco Board of Supervisors an opportunity to shut down the east end of the park to cars on weekends. Roads are currently closed to cars on Sundays, but open to vehicles on Saturdays.

Responding to a request for a declaration of impact by newly-elected San Francisco Board of Supervisor's President Matt Gonzalez, the San Francisco Department of City Planning has issued a "preliminary mitigated negative declaration" which concludes that



Sunday closure of JFK has greatly increased recreational use. But its extension to Saturday is opposed by the park's cultural institutions.

closing specific roads in the park on Saturdays, "could not have a significant effect on the environment." A positive declaration of impact would have forced a lengthy environmental impact report on Saturday closure.

A final negative declaration is expected to come from the Planning Department next week. While it may include some mitigation, the plan to close some roads in the park on Saturdays appears headed to the Board of Supervisors. Gonzalez's aide Larry Roberts said the issue will likely be sent to a committee for review, "but not before February." Once it goes through committee, it will likely be put to the full Board of Supervisors for a vote.

Recreation and Park Department General Manager Elizabeth Goldstein responded to the preliminary negative declaration with suggested mitigation, citing the planned September reopening of the Conservatory of Flowers. The Conservatory is located in an area of JFK Drive that would be closed to cars under the proposed plan.

"We are in the process of completing an operations plan for the Conservatory," she wrote. "The plan anticipates 200,000 visitors in the first year of resumed operation. It is our belief that closures on both Saturday and Sunday of all of the streets surrounding the Conservatory would have a substantial impact on the public's ability to access the Conservatory. The plan also cuts off access to the current disabled parking slots along JFK Drive." Among other suggestions, Goldstein floated a plan that would leave Arguello Blvd. and the northern portions of Conservatory Drive West open to traffic to the Conservatory.

San Francisco voters rejected the idea of Saturday closure of JFK Drive in November of 2001, but Supervisor Gonzalez has continued to push for it.

"There's no question we'd like to see a more pedestrian-friendly environment in the park, but this plan, as it's currently structured, would severely impact the ability of many San Franciscans to enjoy the incredible opportunities in the park," said Executive Director of Friends of Recreation and Parks, Helene Sanghvi York. Friends of Recreation & Parks is opposed to the closure plan. The complete Friends' position can be found at <http://www.frp.org/programs/advocacy/policy.html>

—David Hatfield, Friends of Rec. and Park

Senior Housing Project at Church Hits Last Minute Glitch

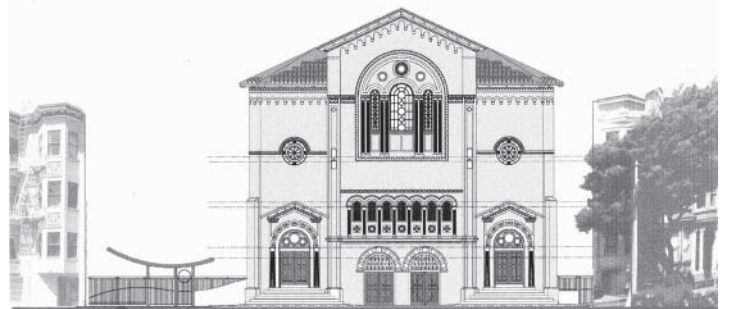
Ed. note: After exhaustive community meetings, Citizens Housing Corporation, the developers of a senior housing project at the site of the former Christian Science Church (1250 Haight), agreed to reduce the parking places from eight to four to satisfy community concerns. The following are excerpts of a letter from Alexandra Galovich, the developer's community liaison, written on Jan. 17.

The Planning Commission approved this project on December 19 with six, rather than four parking spaces, due to an apparent procedural error. Since that date, Citizens Housing has been working with the office of Supervisor Gonzalez and the Planning Department to determine how to make sure that all the necessary changes are made to all the appropriate documents so that the project can move forward as agreed by the community and Citizens (Housing).

I received clarification from City Planning and the City Attorney's office on the process for including the reduced number of parking spaces (4) in the zoning for the Haight Street project. Rather than require 6 parking spaces, the Conditional Use will state that "up to 6 parking spaces" are permitted, subject to the limitations of the project zoning. This means that the decision of the Board of Supervisors on the zoning will control the number of required parking spaces. This process does not require an appeal of the Planning Commission's Conditional Use approval.

As you may recall, there are two different types of approvals that we requested from the Planning Commission in December, both of which need to be revised:

1. Creation of New Zoning, known as a Special Use District. This is legislation that must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. The proposed legislation makes many changes to the existing zoning code to make the current building compliant; it also specifies the number of units and parking spaces that are required.
2. Conditional Use Approval. This is a document that lays out various project requirements and assures that developers will work within the design and building requirements of the Planning Code.



Keeping the church's original facade was important to neighbors.

The draft Conditional Use approval that was presented on December 19 stated that six parking spaces would be required; although the Commission discussed the lower number of spaces (4) favorably, the rush at the end was inconclusive as to how many spaces were actually approved.

The dates of the hearings are not yet set, but Supervisor Gonzalez's administrative aide, Larry Roberts, indicated to me that the legislation could be introduced as early as the January 27 meeting, with committee meetings and final adoption at the board to follow. He can be contacted at 554-7633 or Larry_Roberts@sfgov.org. If you would like talk with me about this further, please contact Alexandra Galovich at Citizens Housing Corporation, 421-8605 or alex@citizenshousing.org.

PostScripts

Two Panhandle residents are actively working to bring a farmers market, such as the one on the Embarcadero on Saturdays and Civic Center on Wednesdays, to the Panhandle. At a 5Together meeting, **Christian Holmer** of CSR (Community Survival Resources) reviewed the plan outlined by **Cheryl Brodie** of PRO/SF (The Panhandle Resident Organization Stanyan-Fulton). Rec. and Park honcho **Dan McKenna** suggested a 3 - 5 month trial period using weekly permits. For such a commercial enterprise to permanently occupy city park land, a charter amendment would be required. Better to see if there is enough interest in a market with all its intrinsic collateral problems (not to mention the non-recreational use of the park) before making such an important commitment.

* * *

Once again **Ginny** and **Dave Keller** opened their home on the weekend before Christmas for a community holiday party sponsored by **RAD**. Neighbors of all ages and political stripes rubbed shoulders at the buffet which was laden with dishes from the best cooks in the neighborhood. The Kellers are one of a small group of families who are unfailingly responsive to the needs and well-being of the neighborhood.

* * *

The new 14 ton dome was hoisted on to the top of the **Conservatory of Flowers** on January 10 to much applause and fanfare. The 124 year old greenhouse was severely damaged in storms in 1995 prompting a major capital campaign to rebuild the structure in such a way as to maintain its national landmark status. The committee to



rebuild the conservatory, headed by CVIA member **John Hooper**, has successfully raised most of the needed funds. Of the \$25 million it took to rebuild it, \$15 million came from private donations, with the remainder coming from various government grants. Plants are scheduled to return home sometime in April.

* * *

The tree-huggers who last year spoke so vigorously against the removal of the eucalyptus trees on **Tank Hill** were triumphant. Rec. and Park just announced that the hill has been planted with buckeye, oak and toyon saplings due to mature in 10-15 years. After that time, so goes the letter from the director **Lisa Wayne**, "we will provide another community forum to reevaluate the possibility of eucalyptus tree removal." Those of you who can still make your way to Tank Hill in 2018, be sure to attend.

* * *

Timothy Keegan, a free-lance writer about local history, is researching WPA-era construction projects in San Francisco. If you or someone you know worked on WPA construction in the City, or have other relevant information on the subject. Call Tim at 681-6665.

Between February 13 and 19, the **Red Vic** will show the much-lauded documentary, "**Southern Comfort**," a real-life, if bizarre, love story between transsexuals directed by **Kate Davis**. A Sundance winner, the film is touted as "an inspiring story of love against all odds."

* * *

There's a rumor that the mayor's office is meeting with Cole Valley Merchants to explore the possibility of a street fair on Cole Street.

* * *

Every so often it happens, and when it does we are reminded that Golden Gate Park, one of the greatest assets of living in the greater Haight, is also a place where the desperate seek shelter. Just after the last newsletter was published, an older Asian woman was accosted while on her early morning walk. The attacker was mentally ill and was later apprehended by the police. The message? When you're walking in the park alone, try not to be out of sight of others.

* * *

Rec. and Park is finally having a hearing on the closing of Waller Street between Stanyan and Kezar Drive. That's the stretch of road



that goes in front of Park Police Station. As one of six roadway closures approved in the Golden Gate Park Master Plan, it's earmarked for conversion to recreational use and that's the good part. The bad part is that the kind of recreation is "hard surface," (read skating). There's nothing wrong with skating, it's the amplified music that goes with it. Nevertheless, we're all for restoring as much of the park to people in lieu of cars, so we'll try to get some restrictions put on decibels. Being close to Haight Street means that there is also the possibility that the closing of the street will offer new campsites to street people—a consideration that has to go into the mix. The community meeting is scheduled for January 30—too late to be covered by this edition of the newsletter. For more info call 581-2542.

* * *

Holiday spirits were dampened at the news of a UCSF employee who was run over by an N Judah car on November 15 at Carl Street and Hillway. The victim was identified as **William Elliott**, 60 years old, who police reported, was hit and apparently dragged beneath the streetcar.

* * *

Author **Constance Reed** reports, sadly, that **Sally Cowan**, the instigator and fund-raiser for the renovation of the pillars at the entrance to Ashbury Terrace, is selling her home and will be leaving the neighborhood. Who will take her place?

* * *

Because so few people turned up for the CVIA Clean-up Day on November 16, we have the opportunity to thank those who *did* con-

tribute time on a Saturday morning to sweeping, stripping poles and painting out graffiti. CVIA thanks **John Manning, Bill Hancock, Donna Cooper, Jonathan Cooper and Stan Mandell** and board members **Joan Downey, David Crommie** (and this writer). Thanks, too, to the Department of Public Works who supplied the tools and took away the trash bags.

* * *

CVIA received a letter in response to an article advocating a policy of no parking in driveways. Mike Sullivan wrote: "I have to register a dissenting vote on the sidewalk parking issue. Enforcement against cars that leave no room for pedestrians and wheelchairs is one thing, but a 100 percent crackdown would lead to chaos. I hope CVIA will take a more moderate position."

* * *

Cole Hardware is in a romantic mood. On February 13 they're going to have another "Ladies Night." This means that from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. there will be a discount of 14% on any single item in stock as well as hands-on demonstrations of tools as well as tips on gardening and home improvements. And if that isn't enough, they're even providing refreshments. Such a deal. (There is only the faintest suggestion that, while there, you might want to pick up a Valentine gift for your loved one.)

* * *

Cole Valley's **Tom Barbash** was asked to write the story of Cantor Fitzgerald and its CEO after the attack of 9/11 in which they lost 658 employees. The SFSU writing teacher is getting good notices on his book, called "On Top of the World: Cantor Fitzgerald, Howard Lutnick, & 9/11: A Story of Loss & Renewal" (Harper Collins)

—Karen Crommie

Letters

Dear CVIA:

I have rented in Cole Valley for over 4 years and I work at UCSF Hospital. I was told to write you with concerns regarding Walgreens moving into the Parnassus/Stanyan space.

I don't know if you are aware, but the hospital no longer has an outpatient pharmacy, so patients that are discharged generally get referred to a local/convenient pharmacy to pick up medications. I know that frequently people are referred to the Pharmacy on 9th and Irving. I am assuming that a pharmacy 1.5 blocks from the hospital will soon be the place of choice. I have no idea what the numbers of people are that are discharged on a daily basis and pick up medications, but I am guessing it is quite a large amount. So I guess my concern is the increase in traffic to this area, and particularly the intersection of Willard and Parnassus which is already a dangerous intersection for pedestrians and drivers.

Kathleen Conelly

CVIA Officers

President Joan Downey
 Vice President Richard Shadoian
 Treasurer Marianne Hesse
 Membership Lena Emmery

Cviasf@aol.com

CVIA new has an e-mail address. Please contact us 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

Chief of Police Earl Sanders 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 Dan Lawson 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

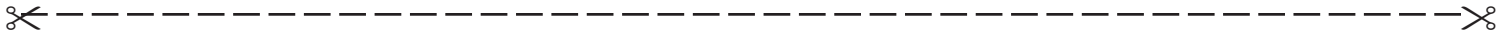
District		Telephone	Fax
1.	Jake McGoldrick Jake_McGoldrick@ci.sf.ca.us	554-7410	554-7415
2.	Gavin Newsom Gavin_Newsom@ci.sf.ca.us	554-5942	554-5946
3.	Aaron Peskin Aaron_Peskin@ci.sf.ca.us	554-7450	554-7454
4.	Leland Yee Leland_Yee@ci.sf.ca.us	554-7752	554-7751
5.	Matt Gonzalez Matt_Gonzalez@ci.sf.ca.us	554-7630	554-7634
6.	Chris Daly Chris_Daly@ci.sf.ca.us	554-7970	554-7974
7.	Tony Hall Tony_Hall@ci.sf.ca.us	554-6516	554-6546
8.	Mark Leno Mark_Leno@ci.sf.ca.us	554-7734	554-7739
9.	Tom Ammiano Tom_Ammiano@ci.sf.ca.us	554-5144	554-6255
10.	Sophie Maxwell Sophie_Maxwell@ci.sf.ca.us	554-7670	554-7674
11.	Gerardo Sandoval Gerardo_Sandoval@ci.sf.ca.us	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 provided.

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