

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XVII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

October 2004

Kezar Poised to Go Big Time

The cash-strapped Recreation and Park Department is incrementally pursuing permission to hold events of up to 10,000 people in Kezar Stadium, violating the 1991 policy that limits attendance to 5,000. At the same time, talks between Mayor Newsom and San Jose Earthquakes general manager Alexi Lalas regarding a new home for the soccer club found Cole Valley neighbors connecting the dots. Some greeted the prospect with warm nostalgia, remembering the days when the 49ers played at Kezar, while others were horrified at the thought of such an influx of people and cars.

The Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee (KSAC) was worried, too, and asked that a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) be prepared to deal with traffic congestion surrounding the stadium and important arteries like Lincoln and Stanyan. When the plan was completed it laid out game day traffic mitigation measures that unleashed a vision of Dante's nine circles of hell.

As if they didn't read it, Rec and Park announced its intention in August to submit the TMP to the Rec and Park Commission for the approval they need to go ahead with booking the large events.



Kezar's prime commitment is to support the city's school athletic events.

"Whoa," said the Advisory Committee, who saw many pitfalls, among them, the rerouting of traffic onto Carl St., impacting the course of the N-Judah line. When it looked like Rec and Park was going ahead anyway, they asked that the TMP not be voted into policy until some "trial" events took place and that then, and only then, should Rec and Park, along with the KSAC jointly make the decision of continuing to book large events.

Rec and Park's operation committee on September 1 gave the go-ahead for two trial events, one of 5,000-7,000 attendees and another of 7,000-10,000, to take place in the spring.

But nothing is simple. The evaluation process could be compromised if the number of fans turning out for each test event falls short of the targeted number.

When the Chronicle reported talks in July between Newsom and Lalas, there was much speculation that Kezar Stadium was be

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CVIA at Heart of Cole Festival

CVIA will operate a booth again this year at the second annual "Heart of Cole Festival" featuring

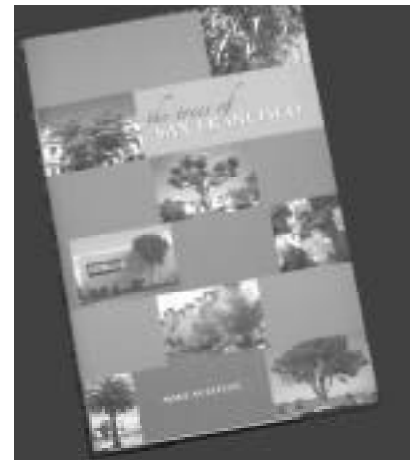


The second annual Cole Street Fair will take place on Sunday, October 24, between Carl and Grattan from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

historic photos along with a photo exhibit of Hidden Gardens in Cole Valley. Did you ever wonder what lies behind the houses that are in our neighborhood? Jessica Justino did and took her camera to a few of those houses and will display what she found.

Michael

Sullivan, longtime CVIA member, Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) board member, and president of Plan C, recently wrote "The Trees of San Francisco," a book that details the city's most common and interesting trees. We will be selling the book at our booth and Sullivan has generously offered CVIA a portion of the purchase price. It is a valuable resource that not only identifies the most common trees but also tells you where you can find them. The book contains excellent color photographs and suggested walking tours. It is a must-have for residents of the greater Haight as its trees are especially well represented.



Michael Sullivan's "Trees of San Francisco" will be available at CVIA's booth.

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The entire CVIA Board has volunteered to help out, not only with the CVIA booth, but also with general fair activities like patrol-



The patio of Mary Lou Nelson's Shrader St. home is part of a collection of photos by Jessica Justino titled "Hidden Gardens of Cole Valley."

ling the area and guarding the street barricades. If you would like to join us as a volunteer for the day or any part of the day, call Lori Elder, the festival organizer, at 902-4127. See you at the Festival.

—Joan Downey

Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

Mayor Gavin Newsom hosted a two and a half-hour Town Hall Meeting attended by about 300 District 5 residents on Saturday, August 28 at the Western Addition's West Bay Conference Center. In his opening remarks and recurring comments during the meeting,



Mayor Gavin Newsom has inherited a city government both overstaffed and overdrawn.

Newsom focused on the necessary fiscal pain brought to nearly every city department, program and neighborhood by the process of balancing the city's 2004-05 budget to eliminate a \$300 million+ deficit. Much of the meeting featured dialogue between the Mayor, citizens asking questions or advocating for their "pet" cause, and responses from the Mayor and senior representatives from over 20 city departments.

Of particular interest to CVIA constituents were requests for additional public toilet facilities both in the Panhandle and the Haight Street business corridor.

Newsom claimed he's received more email about the Decaux toilet now permitted for Haight and Masonic*, than on any other topic. Department of Public Works head Ed Lee reiterated that final permits were issued following exhaustive appeals hearings, and that the new toilet was a definite "go" to start flushing before the end of 2004. Just the same, supporters of this long-debated, badly needed public convenience for Haight visitors might email gavin.newsom@sfgov.org to assure the Mayor that our neighborhood wants this project completed without further delay.

—Richard Magary

*For contrasting viewpoints see *Postscripts* (Susan Strolis) pg. 9 and *Letters* (Doerte Murray) pg. 11.

Kezar—Continued from Page 1

ing considered for the Quakes' anticipated move in 2006. But a closer look at the Lalas' wish list reveals a soccer-dedicated field with a capacity for 20,000 fans. That is not to say that we might not get the nod for some exhibition matches. If Rec and Park has already made commitments for any large-scale events, it has not tipped its hand.

—Karen Crommie

Being a Candidate Isn't Easy

A flurry of e-mail was recently posted on the Panhandle Residents Organization's (PRO/SF) community bulletin board* over the suggestion of District 5 candidate Francis Somsel for a Sunday morning walk-through of the sites suggested for a farmers' market originally proposed for the Panhandle.

Key players are Cheryl Brodie, chair of the Friends of the Panhandle Farmers' Market and PRO/SF president Mary Helen Briscoe. The latter's group, although preferring the Panhandle location, is flexible, subject to the evaluation of the



The recently closed section of Waller St. (at Stanyan) is a location favored by Rec and Park for a farmers' market.

respective sites by Rec and Park. Brodie, who has done extensive research on such inner city produce markets, believes the problems inherent in the Panhandle location can be solved.

Brodie was offended that Somsel had not invited members of her long-standing committee to participate in the walk-through. This elicited comments from all sides: those thinking the walk-through would demonstrate how impractical the whole idea is; those thinking it would prove how good the idea is; and those, like Somsel, who just want to gather information. As a result of all of this, he decided to cancel the walk-through and apologized to all those (including other candidates) who had committed to joining him.

Since it was apparent that Somsel had inadvertently opened a can of worms (100% organic), Tys Sniffen, competing D-5 candidate, commented that someone who had had a history of activism in the neighborhood (hmm, I wonder who?) would have been more sensitive to the parties and issues involved.

Both Panhandle groups have been negotiating with Rec and Park and hope, one way or another, to have a farmers' market up and running by next April.

—Karen Crommie

*Home@prosf.org

Caution: It's Habit Forming

Watch the Board of Supervisors at work. Full Board sessions, committee meetings and various commissions are broadcast live on cable channel 26 and repeated later. Because the playback schedule varies, call CityWatch at 557-4293 to get replay times.

New Ganges Restaurant

The New Ganges Restaurant is on the western edge of CVIA territory—across from the HANC recycling center. It's an Indian vegetarian restaurant that seats about 30 people with white linen tablecloths, red napkins, and votive lights. Aftab Choudhry has run this restaurant for the past two years although the Ganges has been at that location for 30 years. Aftab does the shopping for the fresh produce and acts as host; his wife, Farah, uses only fresh ingredients. They have a freezer in the restaurant, but it's never turned on.



The New Ganges, at 775 Frederick Street near Arguello, is open daily for lunch and dinner and is highly recommended.

Four of us visited the restaurant one night, had a table in the window, and enjoyed a wonderful meal with great service. We shared an appetizer of the house special: Mixed Vegetable Pakora (\$4.95). It's a deep-fried appetizer of vegetables and spices in a chickpea batter – a friend from India described it as one of the best she's had. We shared three main dishes: Kurdi Pakora (\$8.50), which is potato and spinach pakora, cooked in a spiced yogurt sauce (they make the yogurt themselves)—the sauce was delicious over the crisp pakora. Bengan Bharta (\$6.95) is an eggplant dish with tomatoes, onions, ginger, garlic and spices – it was our favorite. Aftab says that he can convert an eggplant-hater with this dish. The Saag Paneer (\$8.95) is a pureed spinach dish with homemade cheese cubes – the cheese is like a dried ricotta. The meal came with Chapati which is a traditional handmade whole wheat flat bread cooked on a tawa (griddle.) We didn't save any room for dessert.

We left the restaurant very satisfied for about \$10 per person. The appetizers range from \$2.95 to \$3.95 and the main courses range from \$6.95 to \$8.95.

Aftab is proud of the awards he's won in the short time he's been managing the restaurant, among them, the #1 vegetarian restaurant in the Bay Area Cook-Off, beating Millennium. He also has a notebook full of letters that people have written to him from all over the world extolling the virtues of his restaurant.

Aftab looks forward to becoming part of the neighborhood and meeting neighbors at the booth he'll have at the Cole Valley Festival. He has also generously offered food to the volunteer workers at the fair.

I recommend a visit to this neighborhood restaurant that also offers a couple of vegan specials each night. Call ahead if you'd like more vegan choices – Aftab will be happy to accommodate. Likewise, if you're planning on bringing your children or other guests who are spicy-sensitive, call ahead of time to arrange for non-spicy dishes. The restaurant does not serve liquor so bring your own wine or beer and they will provide the opener and glasses.

The New Ganges is open every day from 11-2 for lunch and 5-10 for dinner. They do takeout and catering. Call 681-4355 for reservations or special requests.

—Joan Downey

More Questions for the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics

For many years the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics has operated out of a single-family home at 409 Clayton and a four-unit residential building at 529-531 Clayton (among other locations). Because of code violations, some going back to 1971, the owner of these two buildings, registered as Happening House Ventures, was finally summoned to appear on August 26 at a hearing held by the Director of the Department of Building Inspection.

The single-family Victorian at 409 Clayton St. is the site of administrative offices and, until recently, the HIV Outreach Project but is more familiar as the community organizing headquarters of Calvin Welch's various nonprofit enterprises. Happening House Ventures was cited for illegal conversion to offices and work outstanding with no permit filed. Although correspondence between HAFC attorney David Schwartz and building inspector Yasu Morikawa in November of 2000 indicates a conditional use permit was discussed, none was granted.

The four-unit building located one block south at 529-531 Clayton, owned by the same real estate consortium, was also cited for conversion to offices without a building permit and the illegal storage of medical supplies and tools. The building is used as an outpatient clinic and has a second-floor pharmacy.

Both buildings were deemed "unsafe" and issued a notice of abatement with 30 days to file for building, electrical and plumbing permits as well as compliance with the city's commercial energy ordinance.

Fred Horsfield, an expediter representing HAFC, gave a somewhat curious defense to DBI hearing officer Wing Lau. He explained that, years ago, the Planning Department had advised the clinics to submit a master plan for all their venues but at the time they responded, meetings of the Planning Commission had been temporarily suspended. Hence nothing had been done.

—Karen Crommie



The Department of Building Inspection has looked the other way as two buildings (including 409 Clayton above) leased by the HAFC have accumulated multiple violations.

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.

Police Commission in Haight

Did you miss it again? The once a year meeting of the Police Commission in our neighborhood? Too bad, because instead of the perfunctory agenda which usually comes off like a World Fair's demonstration of "how democracy works," this time the commissioners asked real questions and spoke their minds.

The Park Branch Library's basement was set up in boardroom fashion with microphones at each commissioner's place and a floor mic for use by the audience. The event is the fulfillment of a "good government" measure requiring one meeting per month to take place in a different neighborhood. On August 25, it was the Haight's turn.

No sooner had the meeting began that Commissioner Marshall quizzed Chief Heather Fong relentlessly on the use of so-called Ramey warrants. With the seriousness and letter-perfect expertise typical of Fong, she explained that they were used to make arrests when there was a "probable cause" level of evidence in lieu of the more traditional "beyond reasonable doubt."

Then Commissioner Joseph Veronese (Angela Alioto's son) openly criticized the operational decisions made to deal with the Haight location's lack of street parking. Seems the meeting's notice had suggested that members of the public (really, the commissioners) park in the Kezar lot and they would be taken by patrol car to the library. Veronese said that suggesting the public ride in police cars would discourage the very element of the community they were trying to attract to the meetings. Not satisfied, he then criticized the cops for congregating on the sidewalk before the meeting forcing a person to walk through a gauntlet of blue. The young, balding attorney, who is carrying the burden of a grandfather mayor and a mother supervisor, was clearly not trying to gain votes for Ms. Congeniality.

Finally it was time for John Ehrlich to make his first "state of the district" presentation as head of Park Station. Captain Ehrlich astounded everyone with an analysis of the different neighborhoods, their individual prob-



The commission meeting was hosted by Captain John Ehrlich of Park Station who reported on the multiple challenges of the district.

lems, the station's approach to solving them and the myriad of neighborhood organizations with whom he worked. Jaws dropped as it went on and on, with details of meetings, names of board members, etc. Clearly Capt. Ehrlich was doing a lot more community outreach than anyone knew. Most impressive was the weekly meetings he attends (corroborated by members of the audience) at the most trouble-prone area in the Park District: the Martin Luther King/Marcus Garvey development in the Western Addition.

Public comment was more or less predictable with three notable exceptions. First, Amanda Broder asked that, in the future, "when it is reported that extra cops were put here or there, please tell us where you are taking them 'from.'" Another person articulately and emotionally excoriated DA Kamala Harris' failure to recommend the death penalty for David Hill who recently shot and killed Officer Isaac Espinoza. But finally, it was the deeply felt testimony of Haight Ashbury Fair producer Pablo Heising who criticized the priority of Capt. Ehrlich in stressing the safety of families (in the Haight) over "single males, who comprise the majority of residents of the district." A check of the census track

proved that Pablo was wrong with his numbers, but the emotion with which he made his surprising statement resulted in a breathtaking silence across the room.

—Karen Crommie

Political Signs Still Tolerated

Once again candidates for public office are imitating their predecessors and littering public utility poles with self-promotional signs and mini-billboards. Their actions mimic graffiti vandals only with signs instead of spray paint – the mentality is the more signs the better to create an impression of community support where little exists. In their passion for personal triumph they fail to grasp the negative effects, which includes that other thoughtless people emulate their own conduct thereby perpetuating damage, blight and disorder.



Other thoughtless people emulate their own conduct thereby perpetuating damage, blight and disorder.

Voters see through this self-promotional blight, recognizing the principal goal is self-advancement not community concern. Most communities around the globe prohibit anyone using public fixtures for personal or commercial solicitations. It is a conflict of interest for a public official to use public property for self-interest. If a candidate actually cared for our community as much as elected office wouldn't they employ other means in reaching voters such as newspaper advertisements, direct mail, radio, and the Internet? Better yet,

they would place their promotional signs on the homes and businesses of supporters, which demonstrate democracy in action, as well as the candidate's personal ethics, leadership qualities, and community support. There's an old adage: "Listen to what someone says, but more important, watch what they do." In other words, demonstrate community concerns by cleaning up San Francisco instead of spoiling it.

—Rick Thurber

Ed. Note: Mayor Gavin Newsom has recently launched a spirited campaign to clean up graffiti and remove fliers from utility polls, demanding accountability from public and private sectors alike. He has not, to date, specifically targeted political signs which are thought to be the "third rail" of illegal postings eliciting many of the same first amendment arguments used against campaign finance reform.

That's Our Boy

Once again Cole Valley's Craig Newmark (craigslist.com) is featured in Time Magazine. This time he got a full page in the October 11 issue because eBay recently purchased 25% of his world famous classified service. Craig assures us nothing will change, and he looks forward to using eBay's expertise in dealing with online con artists.

Panhandle Restrooms: Everything That's Wrong About SF

Anyone with eyes can see that there are two bathrooms in the Panhandle. Any normal person visiting our city would expect that, although they might lack paper products and cleanliness, there would be a usable public restroom in a city park. What seems so simple in other cities around the nation (and the world), appears to be an unsolvable problem in San Francisco.

The city, more explicitly the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) has, over the years, provided a cornucopia of excuses



Rather than reopen the existing restrooms, Rec and Park has provided a questionable solution until work on their replacement begins.

for the closure of the Panhandle restrooms: lack of gardening staff to open and close the doors on a regular basis, chronic vandalism, lack of maintenance staff to clean, and use by illegal drug users. Plans for building replacement somehow justified closure; removal of trees justified postponement of replacement (which justified closure); then a water main was broken by PG&E. And now, the most intriguing excuse of all. Below is a quote from Rec and Parks' Keith Kawamura, project director of its Capital Improvement Division:

A federal court decision directed the city to immediately stop violating the outcome of proposition 209 and called for the cessation of affirmative action preference on city contracts. City attorney subsequently directed city departments to stop awarding contracts until this is resolved. This forced the removal of the request from the August 5 commission agenda to approve the award of contract to the low bidder for the manufacture and installation of prefabricated restrooms. Hopefully this will be resolved soon ...but, until then, the award is on hold.

Then Katy Franklin, mother of a 4-year old, wrote to the ChronicleWatch complaining, quite rightly, that the children and parents using the Panhandle play area have to walk over a mile to a restroom facility. The small, fenced playground was reconstructed in 1996 using a grant from the San Francisco and Burlingame Saturn (Lucas) dealerships but was then reconfigured by the city at enormous cost to meet ADA requirements. The heavily used playground with sandbox, slides and swings, is especially designed for small children 1-5 years.

Seeing one's picture on the front page of the city's only daily seemed to trigger action by Rec and Park's Acting General Manager Yomi Agunbiade. But what was the course of action? To avoid

the situation completely, of course, and install a portable toilet.

One is tempted to end by saying "only in San Francisco," but that would be letting Rec and Park off easy—suggesting that incompetence is part of the city's charm. It isn't. It's just another indication that nobody at Rec and Park is willing to take personal responsibility for providing one of the most basic human services: public restrooms. Today, there is a smelly, blue portapotty, heavily graffitied, a few feet from the small, but dignified, Spanish-style, restroom reminding one of a former time when the city had a firmer grasp of its responsibilities.

Karen Crommie

MadKat: Not Your Mother's Beauty Supply Store

Of course, the "beauty supply store" didn't even exist in *my* mother's time. Back then we bought beauty products at a department store or the five and dime. Later, as pharmacies redefined themselves as convenience stores, we went there for our lotions and potions. As pointed out by Yankolovich many years ago, for every major trend, there is a shadow counter trend. So, today, as the number of big box mega-stores increase, so do small specialty shops.

One of them is MadKat, a beauty supply store scheduled to open later this month at the site of the original Postal Chase at 915 Cole. It will feature more than 50 salon brands of beauty products and just enough makeup to cover emergencies. Their nearest competitor will be Haight Street's Pure Beauty, which is part of a chain.



Maher Muhawieh heads the family run business that will transform the former Postal Chase into a "girley" venue for beauty supplies.

MadKat is the second location for Maher Muhawieh who, along with his two sisters, Marlene and Christine, runs a shop of the same name in Noe Valley. All three Muhawiehs are under 25 years old.

What will set MadKat apart is its ambience. "Vintage" and "very girley," says Maher who goes on to describe what sounds like the bedroom of an unusually self-obsessed call girl. (I like that in a shop.) You can try any of the products right there in the store and the fact that none of them have been tested on animals will give comfort to some (although not me).

Displaying acuity for public relations, Maher ended the interview by saying, "You will go to Pharmaca to make you feel good, and to MadKat to make you look good." Or maybe visa-versa depending on the day you're having.

—Karen Crommie

Noise from Sharon Meadow Events Has Reached Impasse

Rec and Park issued a permit to Reggae in the Park despite their promoter having failed to meet the deadlines, failed to meet the requirements of the New Amplified Sound Policy, and even gated Sharon Meadow and drove heavy trucks all over it without a signed permit.

After seven years, RPD has shown some signs that they are taking this issue more seriously which seems connected to the attached Demand Letter that I sent to them on Sept. 21st. A Demand Letter gives notice to the City of the grievance and gives them time to negotiate or correct the problem before a citizen has the right to sue the City. However, they did nothing to stop the promoter from setting up his event even though he had no permit.

He called their bluff and their City Attorney told them to blink. As of today, RPD has given a permit to Events West for the Reggae event so they have already failed to fulfill one or more of my demands. That they issued the permit only demonstrates the obvious, that they fear the potential cost of a law suit from an event promoter more than they fear the cost of a law suit from me. They could have denied his permit application the day he applied on grounds that they knew he would not comply, but the promoter rightly pointed out that they had failed to have other promoters comply so they were on very weak grounds and he could claim a much greater loss than I could.

There is nothing to keep you and your neighbors from sending the same Demand Letter as I have (adjusted to your views and circumstances). I have decided to wait for a response that should have been mailed today, ten days after I hand delivered it and perhaps arrive early next week, if at all. I then plan to add two demands or use them in negotiations:

First, RPD is prohibited from issuing permits for events with loudspeakers that have a combined total of more than 300 watts (e.g. three 100 watt speakers, two 150 watt speakers or one 300 watt speaker) whose periphery is within 500 feet of Recreation and Park property boundary. The stated number of watts is only an example with the exact wattage for the loudspeakers pending a discussion with experts who can demonstrate that at that distance the maximum sound generated it will be an inaudible part of the ambient sound. The intent is to allow for the use of microphones e.g. at the Purina Dog Challenge and for other events where they don't need to yell into the microphone but they do it anyway simply because they have the equipment that allows them to do it.

Second, RPD is to prohibit sale of alcoholic beverages using temporary ABC licenses at Sharon Meadow and/or all other Recreation and Park property. The key is temporary licenses which won't restrict the sale of beer at Monster Park or at city golf courses because they have permanent liquor licenses. This is not anti-alcohol but only to make Sharon Meadow and our City parks unwelcome to the types of events whose audiences require alcoholic beverages as part of their enjoyment of the event or as an illegal but unenforced means of profit. The promoters routinely use the NPOs as fronts to get the temporary permits and then, contrary to law, the promoters keep most of the profits.

I hope those who attended the previous negotiations with RPD now realize that RPD had no intent of really enforcing the agreement, because it was clear that to enforce it was to cancel the event. They were simply appeasing us so they could have one more summer of noise. My demand letter has gotten their attention but the shock of it will wear off quickly unless others do the same and we actually follow through.

—Martin MacIntyre

Margaret Fraher

Margaret Fraher, a distinguished and longtime member of CVIA passed away on Sept. 15, 2004. She was a third generation San Franciscan. She attended the University of California at Berkeley and graduated as a microbiologist. She worked for over 40 years at Children's Hospital and then UCSF, where she won the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Service.

Margaret was active in St. Agnes parish where she was a census taker and a Eucharistic minister, who visited the sick and volunteered at nursing homes. She delivered meals for Project Open Hand, worked at the Haight Ashbury Food Program and belonged to the auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Margaret is survived by her sister, Patricia Fraher; nephews, Stephen, Larry, Joseph, Patrick and Andrew Fraher; nieces, Catherine Bergmann and Virginia Weingartner, and many grandnephews and nieces. A funeral Mass was held at St. Agnes Church on September 21. Our neighborhood has lost a generous and courageous member.

37 Corbett Bus Line Threatened

On November 8, 2004 Muni will hold a community meeting at the Randall Museum to discuss two specific proposals regarding the 37 Corbett bus. The first proposal would be the reduction of two bus stops (at Park Hill Street/Buena Vista East and at Buena



Vista East/Buena Vista Terrace) thereby eliminating a dogleg on the downhill route only from Haight-Masonic toward Market Street. Specifically, this dogleg involves the bus going north on Park

Hill Street (off of Roosevelt Street), east on Buena Vista East and south on Buena Vista Terrace back to Roosevelt Street. The second proposal would be to eliminate the first 37 Corbett routes in the early morning (before 6:30 AM) and the last 37 Corbett routes late at night (after 11:00 pm).

Supervisor Dufty's office is scheduling the meeting for Monday, November 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Randall Museum Theater (199 Museum Way). Please contact Rebecca Prozan, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Bevan Dufty, at 415-554-6968 or email: Rebecca.Prozan@sfgov.org for more details.

After Five Months of Campaigning, These Guys Still Look Good



Ross Mirkarimi



Jim Siegel



Tys Sniffen



Andrew Sullivan

As the days rapidly move toward November we are facing not only national and state elections, but a choice from 22 candidates to replace Supervisor Matt Gonzalez in District 5. The last four months have presented numerous opportunities to listen to these men and women, visit their web sites, read their position papers and scrutinize their campaign literature. For politically centrist homeowners, it's like looking for a treasure at a flea market in Krakow.

Since D-5 has a high percentage of Greens, lefties and renters (third highest in the city), almost all the candidates support bond measure A; expansion of "tenants rights"; opposed Care Not Cash; and equate "quality of life" issues with NIMBYism and right-wing values. Few will admit any discord with the views of Matt Gonzalez—and who could blame them, the man came within a gnat's eyelash of being mayor.

Since the CVIA board does not endorse candidates out of respect to the astounding diversity of members (no, we're not all centrist homeowners), we can only give a gentle nudge toward the following candidates who are described below (in alphabetical order).

Ross Mirkarimi, in spite of "progressive" credentials which garnered him the coveted Gonzalez endorsement, is reasonable, mature and intelligent, has had firsthand experience with many of the most important issues in the city such as law enforcement, public utilities and the environment. Probably most important, he has the best chance of actually winning.

Jim Siegel is a small businessman who lives in the real world of weekly payrolls and city bureaucracy. He is also a property owner who knows the problems facing those providing rental housing. He

has proven himself an effective historic preservationist by saving the Fallon Building and other important landmarks. He is energetic and honest.

Tys Sniffen, an efficiency consultant in private life, is a neighborhood activist by avocation, tirelessly working on boards and committees to improve the quality of living in the greater Haight Ashbury. As a newly married man who looks forward to buying his first home, he is a spokesman for middle-income affordable housing, safe neighborhoods and clean streets. He supports Mayor Newsom's measures to reduce homelessness, knows our issues like the back of his hand and is eager to represent us.

Andrew Sullivan is an engineer with SBC Pacific Bell who distinguished himself by cofounding Rescue Muni and getting a ballot measure passed (Prop E) which increased accountability by reforming many of the operating rules of the city's troubled transit system. He supports Mayor Newsom's Care Not Cash program and Angela Alioto's 10-Year Plan to reduce chronic homelessness. He is a strong advocate for increasing home-buying opportunities and speaks out on neighborhood issues such as enforcement of quality of life laws. He is a good listener with an impressive intellect who is poised to conquer the high learning curve required of a new supervisor.

All of these candidates welcome your help with their campaigns. Ross Mirkarimi 931-9761 (www.rossforsupervisor.org); Jim Siegel 921-7442 (www.jimsiegelfor5.org); Tys Sniffen 606-7746 (www.tyssniffen.com); Andrew Sullivan 673-0626 (www.sulli.org).

—Karen Crommie



Captain John Ehrlich holds community meetings every month excepting December. He and his staff review criminal activity, park events, and the general safety concerns of residents. Plan to attend each month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Park Police Station, 1899

Waller St. at Stanyan.

October 28, November 30, January 12

Call Sgt. Mark Porto for details: 242-3032

And for More Fun in SF Politics

Check out these San Francisco Bloggers:

Usual Suspects is Alex Clemens' political insiders one-stop shop www.sfusualsuspects.com

San Francisco Sentinel is Pat Murphy's information central www.sanfranciscosentinel.com

SF Bulldog is H. Brown's blog, probably the most entertaining www.sfbulldog.com

Beyond the Chronicle is Randy Shaw's platform for "progressives" www.beyondchron.org

Joe Fire, writes from his heart and makes everyone fair game www.joefire.com

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 431-1414 to learn the location.

August

- Reviewed last meeting’s resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together, the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods and welcomed guest Carol Dahlstrom.
- Heard presentation from Christine Linnenbach and Matt Magana on behalf of D-5 candidate Ross Mirkarimi.
- Discussed problems at the N-Judah line’s Duboce stop.
- Motion passed to oppose Rec and Park’s purchase of property at 701 Lombard.
- Motion passed to rent a booth at the Cole Fair on Oct 24.
- Discussed plans to hold events up to 10,000 at Kezar Stadium.

September

- Reviewed last meeting’s resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together, the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Discussed a range of community problems with guest, Ross Mirkarimi.
- Approved letter to Kezar Advisory Committee asking that no “trial” mega events be held at Kezar until the flaws in the Transportation Management Plan be addressed.
- Agreed to accept the generous offer of Michael Sullivan to sell copies of “Trees of San Francisco” at the Cole Street Fair with a portion of the proceeds to go to CVIA.
- After reviewing their positions as they have been clarified over the last months, decided to suggest the same four District 5 supervisory candidates in the October newsletter with Ross Mirkarimi given more prominence.

October

(The meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum.)

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

CVIA Officers

PresidentDouglas Hall
 Vice President Richard Shadoian
 TreasurerMarianne Hesse
 Membership..... Lena Emmerly
 Community RelationsNancy Corsaut
 Special ProjectsJoan Downey

Want to add your two-cents to the Panhandle restroom issue? Rec and Park will be holding a second community meeting on October 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Park Police station community room (1899 Waller St.)

Update from the Office of Supervisor Gonzalez

Ed. Note: The following is an informal report on work currently being done by Supervisor Gonzalez’s Legislative Aide David Grenell as posted on the Panhandle Residents Organization’s on-line community bulletin board (Home@prosf.org) on September 26.

Dear Men, Women and Children of District 5:

This is Dave Grenell, Legislative Aide and Technocrat for Supervisor Matt Gonzalez. I was asked to send an update on what I am currently working on at the Gonzalez office.

- I have been working on the Panhandle toilet which is slated to be up and running by June if Rec and Park keeps its word—which they seem to be doing.
- Working on another toilet to be installed on Haight Street which has run into some problems with PG&E. I anticipate these problems will be overcome.
- Tree planting season approaches and I have been putting in orders for trees.
- I am currently working on getting trees trimmed on Turk Street near Fillmore and perhaps more lighting there—neighbors say these blocks are too dark at night and increase illegal activity.
- I am working with various departments and the community regarding adequate implementation of a CNG station being built in GG Park and its impact.
- I am working with the SF Zoo which has promised to transfer its two remaining elephants to sanctuary.
- I am working with the police and community in response to abuse of medical marijuana laws—when certain medical marijuana clubs in District 5 seem to set up bad conditions in the neighborhood by allowing possibly illegal activities to go on nearby—selling to people who may be dealing dope.
- I continue to work on the DMV parking lot with Tys Sniffen who has spearheaded the effort to open it up to nighttime parking. We are presented with new obstacles at the state level.
- About 5 months ago we passed a resolution asking MUNI to start a biodiesel pilot project - biodiesel being an alternative fuel (think restaurant grease) which has significantly lower emissions than diesel and which can be used in all diesel engines with very few changes.



Using the large DMV lot for nighttime parking would ease congestion during the critical hours.

A week ago I rode on the first 100% Biodiesel fueled MUNI bus and we went over to see where the stuff is made in the East Bay. Using biodiesel widely in MUNI will be a question of cost/funding ultimately—since it costs 80 cents more per gallon. We are work

ing on having a hearing on this. San Francisco would be the first major municipality to use biodiesel in public transportation.

■ We recently passed legislation that will result in funding a study that will lead to offshore wave-generated power at Ocean Beach after a few years.

■ The Tidal Power project: We have endeavored to place San Francisco as the first major city to derive a significant amount of its energy from Tidal Power. This is a long term project. A pilot version will be tested under the Golden Gate Bridge or an alternative site next June as a demonstration.

■ We have held hearings on this at LAFCO and with the Department of Environment this summer. I anticipate a large bond will be issued if the tests and demonstrations go well.

I have also been working on the following legislation which has just been introduced:

■ Gun Legislation that prohibits sale of .50 caliber weapons and ammunition as well as cleanup measures related to gun control. (The Governor just signed a ban on .50 rifles—ours will include hand guns and will be amended in committee to reflect the new state law.)

■ A Fillmore Street Liquor Ban Ordinance that will prohibit more liquor stores from opening in the lower Fillmore Street corridor.

■ The Domestic Partnership Protection Ordinance—which prohibits landlords from raising the rent if a spouse or domestic partner moves into a living unit occupied by their partner/spouse. Under current law landlords can and do evict people for trying to move their loved one into their current domicile.

■ Implementation of Rank Choice Voting and an appropriations ordinance that will track its implementation.

Possible upcoming legislation I am working on:

■ An ordinance that sets up an independent mechanism to monitor and improve the conditions of Homeless Shelters.

■ A resolution that urges the City to expand and invest in Hydrogen technology, creating an alternative energy/H2 fueling station.

■ An ordinance that makes supermarkets clearly identify, through proper signage, which fish are a risk for mercury poisoning.

■ An ordinance that restricts animal research at UCSF.

■ An ordinance that prohibits elephants at the SF Zoo.

My colleague Amy Laitinen is working on other important issues, legislative and community. I don't know what they are since we are too busy to talk to each other. A near perfect relationship.

*Dave Grenell, Legislative Aide
Office of Supervisor Matt Gonzalez*

Postscripts

Joe O'Donoghue, the irrepressible head of the Residential Builders Association, is circulating his latest poem, this time about our neighbor, affordable housing gadfly Calvin Welch. Entitled, "Calvin Be-sotted," it begins, "Fallen Angel of the Left/Without his crown he is bereft/Hating those who swooped right in/And scooped from him the crowd's loud din," and continues in similar fashion, ending with "The progressive movement is in such divide/Because of this rancorous shallow maw pride." I only report.

Ah, yes, pumpkins and skeletons are popping up all over the neighborhood. It's that time of year when many denizens of Haight Street regret they have been so outlandish in their everyday attire because it seriously limits costume possibilities for San Francisco's favorite holiday. Pablo Heising will once again organize the children's Halloween parade down Haight street. The children of William DeAvila

Elementary School (Waller between Masonic and Buena Vista West) will stop at certain Haight Street businesses (the generous ones) to receive fistfuls of treats. Meanwhile, on Halloween night, the good neighbors of Upper Belvedere St. will again transform their garages into witch's caves and distribute hundreds of pounds of candy (oh, yes, and small boxes of nourishing raisins) to the thousands of children who happily climb the hill.

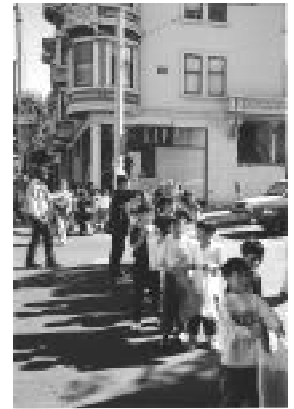
Susan Strolis is not giving up without a fight. She doesn't think a public toilet should be opposite her front door and is working mightily to halt its installation. In their struggle to get a second Decaux toilet in the Haight Ashbury, DPW has settled on the wide sidewalk offered by Masonic a few feet north of Haight. Strolis lives in a residential unit above Positively Haight Street with an entrance directly across from the site of the toilet. She points out that installing a public toilet in front of a residential building without the residents' permission would establish a precedent for the future toilet sites. Her fight is complicated by the efforts of the Haight Street Merchants Association and HANC who are determined to have a second Decaux in the neighborhood. Although sympathetic with Strolis, the Merchants and HANC are understandably grabbing this opportunity to fulfill their long sought goal. (See Murray letter to editor on pg. 11.)

Soon, we'll be doing a lot less cooking at home. In the last issue we reported on the construction of a new restaurant "Taboun-a Taste of the Mediterranean" at the site of Gelato Classico and Cybelle's Pizza, on Parnassus near Stanyan. Well, we hoped it would be open by now but the city is asking owners Sam Qaru and Mourice Kari to lower the sidewalk in front of the buildings to comply with safety codes. Nevertheless, inside, the work continues. The state-of-the-art stainless steel kitchen is in place surrounded by a thin mist of



sanding dust. The restaurant has limited space for tables so takeout will probably be a hefty part of their business. Sam is on the cell-phone more or less continuously, fielding orders, dealing with contractors' problems, deliveries, and endless bureaucracy. As if oblivious to all this activity, noted muralist Avo Dermikaelian works quietly on a breathtaking mural of a hillside monastery located in Greece. He is expertly reproducing an original painting that, itself, will appear illuminated in the front window. In spite of the different last names, Sam and Mourice are brothers—the latter being the owner of Sunny Country Market next door.

We all love the home-delivered copies of the S.F. Observer. The problem is, they say they're not getting enough news from Cole Valley for their Haight Ashbury Beat. "Difficult to penetrate," is how it was described by features editor Sandy Staggs, who wants you to send any newsworthy stories to the Observer at PO Box 15102, San Francisco, CA 94115 or call 863-6397.



If nothing else, 2004 will be remembered in the Haight as the Summer of Streetwork. We have watched PG&E replace gas lines on Clayton, Cole, Masonic and Haight (from Ashbury to Stanyan) as well as a couple of blocks of Shrader and Belvedere streets. Then, after relocating a conflicting gas line at the intersection of Oak and Ashbury, JMB Construction, a DPW contractor, has resumed its earlier work replacing the Fire Department's high-pressure water line. This was completed the first week of September. This year has also seen paving projects on Ashbury, electrical undergrounding on Oak (bet Ashbury and Masonic) and on Stanyan (between Oak and Page). Noise, dust, traffic congestion, we got it all.



Any minute now Maryo Mogannam will open a small upscale grocery store at the site of the former Reamona Market on Cole St. *Cole Foods*, as he calls it, will attempt to fill a different need from its nearest competitor Alpha Market. "We see ourselves as our customers' 'personal shopper,'" says Maryo. "We will have only the top lines of every product we carry." On a roll, he continues, "We want to take the customer on a journey of discovery to the finest foods and wines." Gosh, maybe I'll cancel my cruise plans. In the meantime, irrepressible Maryo runs three venues of Postal Chase (one just up the street from Cole Foods) and is an organizer of the Cole Street Fair. His enthusiasm and moxie contribute greatly to the business climate of Cole Valley.



CVIA's Summer Social was its usual convivial affair. Listening to conversations, I was reminded once again that this neighborhood remains a bastion of the talented, accomplished and wise. Although CVIA provided hot sausages and beverages, members were asked to contribute other parts of the lunch, designated by the first letter of their last name. Well, that plan failed to meet the requirements of a balanced meal. Turns out, there was a disproportionate number of attendees in the "dessert" category. Early the following morning, two shipping boxes of sweets were delivered



to the Haight Ashbury Food Program. Thanks to all the members who took the effort to come and show their support.

For years, the awning over the front of Crepes on Cole (Cole and Carl) has been covered with pigeon droppings and as such the neighborhood's biggest eyesore. Complaints were met with finger-pointing and, well, I don't want to get into that. Bottom line is that the building is finally being painted and the question arises: if they put up a new awning, will the owners install pigeon-thwarting measures on the building's cornices and/or will the respective owners of both the restaurant and the building work out a maintenance program for cleaning the awning? Crepes on Cole is a fine eatery but that awning has been a turnoff to many who would otherwise happily eat there.



—Karen Crommie

Dear CVIA

I read the response by Michael Malaga to two CVIA News articles in the May 2004 issue regarding preservation of neighborhood architectural character. As a 30 year resident and building owner in the Cole Valley neighborhood, I must take issue with Mr. Malaga's view of "property rights". San Francisco is no place for people who want to gut and destroy the wonderful, irreplaceable Victorian interiors of our houses that give them their life and personality, indeed their very soul. We are only caretakers of this precious architectural inheritance, not "owners" with feudal rights to impose our personal tastes, or worse, engage in speculative property rip-offs at the expense of our neighbors. These houses were here before we bought them; we knew what we were buying. They are at their best when they are restored to their original state. If it does not suit you, Mr. Malaga, sell it to someone who is willing to honor its heritage. Then take your view of precious property rights to the vast, anonymous suburban housing tracts where they better fit in.

Pete Gorman

As the listing broker for this house, I feel compelled to respond to Michael Malaga's lengthy letter in your last issue. Mr. Malaga is upset with the criticism of the recent renovation of 5 Parnassus (SW corner of Clayton), and says that this criticism was "abusive" and further, that an owner has the right to do what ever they want with their own property.

Mr. Malaga states that the house was "an unkempt and fading shell, a completely impractical floorplan, and a poor welcome to Parnassus Ave." The exterior, although desperately needing painting, was an unusually handsome Colonial Revival home with Craftsman detailing, all on a key, highly visible corner. This house had been in the same family since it was designed and built for that family in 1905. The interior was extraordinarily intact with elaborate decorated plaster ceilings, moldings, banisters, fireplaces, beautiful built-in cabinetry; virtually a complete vocabulary of Colonial Revival detailing. Such intact interiors are rarely seen today, and nearly all who saw it understood that it should be preserved, but with updated kitchens and baths. Two architectural historians who went through the house were astonished at this rare example of miraculous survival. The floor plan,

with few exceptions, seemed very functional and well suited to family living.

I represented the seller of this house, in part because I have long been an advocate for preservation and a student of architectural history. We had several offers, but the successful buyers (represented by a north side broker) impressed the sellers and myself with their apparent love of the architecture and their pledge to preserve the interior. The sellers accepted their offer, confident that the buyers would honor their pledge to be respectful to such an architectural gem.

Nearly a year later, we, like many others, were stunned to see that the interiors had been completely gutted down to the studs. It was as if a painter, needing a canvas, stripped a fine painting in order to use the canvas. If the buyers felt that they had to destroy this interior, why buy the house in the first place? Why not buy some nondescript contemporary house, higher up the hill, with drop dead views and no traffic noise? And then have no constraints whatsoever regarding the floor plan. Clearly, money was not an issue here. At quick glance the house looks beautiful, but a closer look shows the architect's insensitivity or ignorance of the period by the inappropriate windows (all new, of course). The new windows have the diamond lights on the bottom, not on the top as existed, and as seen in many similar houses of the era.

So it seems to me that the issue is less of owners' rights, but about not honoring a commitment and trashing a rare, handsome interior. I do not think that cultural vandalism is too strong a word to describe what has happened.

Ian Berke

Dear CVIA:

Regarding the article "Haight Toilet Beats Challenge," by Richard Magary in the last issue, the facts as I see them are as follows:

Up to now no public toilet has been installed on sidewalks in front of a building, when the owner opposed such action. After attending several hearings, appeals, etc. on this matter, I came back with the impression that due process was not followed. This deal was concocted between HANC and DPW without the input of affected neighbors.

If the merchants wanted a toilet so badly, I wonder why it didn't end up in front of a business on Haight Street? My advice for [the author], who has stated repeatedly that a public toilet in Buena Vista Park is inappropriate (close to his home), learns to apply the same sensitivity to other residents in this neighborhood. Dropping the idea for a "first flush" celebration, as suggested by him, would be a first step.

Doerte Murray

CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Winter edition should be sent before January 15, 2005 to 624 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or kcrommie@aol.com. We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

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- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks553-1200**
- Abandoned Vehicles.....781-5865**
- Health Department255-3610**
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- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal28-CLEAN
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- District Attorney Kamala Harris553-1741**
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 S.F. CA 94103
- Captain John Ehrlich242-3000**
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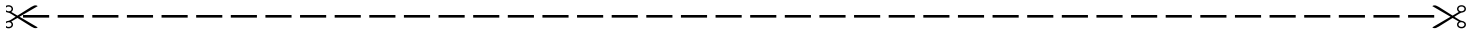
Would you like a copy of this newsletter sent to a neighbor? Leave a message at 431-1414 with their name and address and consider it done

BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

tively 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

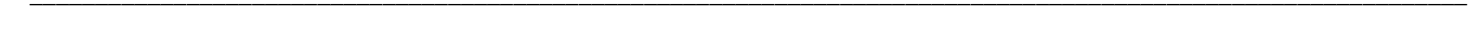
NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

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
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