

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XVII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

February 2004

## Urban Outfitters Lose Bid to Locate in the Haight Ashbury

On the same day that the Planning Commission heard the case for the expansion of Urban High School (*see article in adjacent column*), they also held a hearing on a matter of seemingly less importance but one that brought into focus the conflicting values deeply embedded in the Haight.

The building in question at Haight and Cole, is a nearly completed mixed residential and first-floor commercial building formerly housing the I Beam and an adjacent building. This was demolished two years ago and has been replaced by a building with 32 residential units and space for five ground-floor shops.

Things got complicated when owner John Brennan was approached by a youth-oriented dry goods chain, Urban Outfitters (UO), who wanted to lease two storefronts and deep space in the rear of the building. This required conditional use authorization from the Planning Commission because, while a 50 foot store front would make little visual impact on Haight St. (the overall average being 40 feet), the rear space Urban Outfitters needed would make it much larger than the 2,500 sq. ft. maximum as formulated in 1987 when the Haight became a Neighborhood Commercial District (NCD).

The planning commission hearing room filled quickly on January 15, as waves of trendily dressed young people struggled to find seats. The issue came down to the wording of the zoning ordinance which states that exceptions can only be made if there is substantial evidence that the business is "necessary" and "desirable." On that basis it would seem to have been a lost cause from the start. Clearly the Haight did not need another youth-oriented clothing store. But as a long line of UO managers, sales associates and district manag-



Urban Outfitters would have occupied two of the five storefronts on Haight.

ers came to the lectern to speak, it was apparent that, like the Urban High School students whose hearing would follow later in the evening, these young men and women with their tousled hair and eclectic clothing were intelligent and idealistic young achievers

*Continued on page 2, column 2*

## Urban High Gets Go-Ahead

Immediately after hearing the case of Urban Outfitters, the Planning Commission moved on to the request of Urban High School for a conditional use authorization to expand their Page Street campus. The January 15 meeting drew an overflow crowd of parents, teachers and students who successfully convinced the commission and the neighbors that they were justified in tearing down two buildings to accommodate a science lab, a music department and some housing for teachers.

Urban High School is a highly respected "progressive" private school full of bright young students and dedicated teachers who thrive under the leadership of director Mark Salkind. That said, the unde-



Urban High School's expansion will replace two residential buildings and increase enrollment from 250 to 380 students.

niable fact is that the school bought two adjacent buildings, used the Ellis Act to evict the tenants and waited a little longer than one would hope to tell anyone about it.

But that night at City Hall, everybody—commissioners and school representatives alike—were anxious to put that behind them and "move on." Over the last few months Urban has made amends



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by negotiating with the community (represented by HANC\*), voluntarily providing the evicted tenants with three times the required relocation fees and donated \$300,000 to the Mayor's Office of Community Development.

Urban's representatives arrived at the hearing willing to meet all HANC's demands save one: the promise not to expand in the future beyond a period of 10 years. As negotiations continued in the aisles, the commission listened to four hours of testimony, much of it by fresh-faced students of all ethnic mixes who provided ample living proof of the value of the school. Some of the hundred or so people who jammed the hearing room had to be rerouted by security to an adjacent room.

Urban was forced to come to the commission because it proposed to develop a project site of over 1/2 acre (also called a Planned Unit Development) which would allow exceptions to the standard requirements for rear yard and open space. They also needed per-



mission to waive code prohibiting the expansion of a secondary school in an RM-1 district and for modification of a prior conditional use authorization issued in 1993.

At the end of the public comment—all of it warmly received by members of the commission, the school agreed not to further expand on Page Street (with the exception of the St. Agnes Gym which they now rent and would be interested in buying), to make every attempt to relocate the children currently attending the nearby Whitney Young Child Development Center during the demolition and initial construction period of 6-8 weeks, hire an industrial hygienist, hold annual meetings with a neighborhood organization, not to expand in the Haight for a period of 18 years and to cap enrollment at 380 students.

It was a big concession, both by the surrounding neighbors and the commission, not only because of the codes that had to be bent, but the environmental impact (mainly automobile traffic) on that block of Page. But, in the end, the excellence of the school, its humanistic curriculum, the contribution of wholesome young people to the neighborhood, both by their volunteer work and their patronage of businesses, persuaded enough people of differing viewpoints that it was a worthwhile trade-off. And isn't that what conditional use authorization is all about?

—Karen Crommie

\*Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council

### Learn to be a School Volunteer

Attend a Saturday training series on February 28 at John Swett Elementary School, 727 Golden Gate Avenue. Call 749-3700, ext. 3026 for information on how to register.

### Urban Outfitters—Continued from Page 1

enthusiastic about their firm, its merchandise, its presentation and its corporate culture. It was obvious that this anchor store would bring more business to the Haight.

This view was not shared by most of the Haight people who spoke. Contrary to the rules of business, they felt that UO would diminish rather than increase their business. Flip Sarrow, now president of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association, said that 52 merchants were against it (on the basis of its size) and that there were petitions signed by some 7,000 people protesting, as several people put it, "corporate takeover of the Haight." It was notable that almost none of these merchants appeared at the hearing, suggesting that they knew it would be good for business but were not willing to buck the neighborhood politics.

The view of many Haight residents was expressed by Ted Loewenberg who said he would rather have a responsible chain store taking up two store fronts than see another tattoo parlor or head shop.

Joe O'Donoghue (Residential Builders Association) in his testimony took issue with the appearance of an aide from Supervisor Gonzalez's office speaking against the lease. "She's being paid a salary out of taxpayer dollars to come here and speak against business."

Haight Ashbury Street Fair producer Pablo Heising said he was indifferent to Urban Outfitters but thought the size restriction should be maintained. He talked about the time in the 70s when Haight Street was lined with boarded-up buildings and then said, "We didn't rebuild the Haight to have it taken over by corporations." At which time a son of owner John Brennan got up and said, "My father was the one who rebuilt the Haight, he wasn't the one who tried to burn it down." A breathtaking reference to the torching of another Brennan building (now Goodwill) that was destined to house a Thrifty Junior drugstore, opposed by many in the neighborhood.

Two merchants testified in favor of the permit. Fred Sarresh of Coffee Cantada, with his usual dignity, carefully read a statement in which he said his customers were in favor of Urban Outfitters and that he felt the presence of a few large stores was good for Haight business.

Bruce Lyall, owner of Recycled Records, looked out on the crowd and said, "I have come to support the Urban Outfitters today, principally because I remember that," turning to the crowd, "not one of you merchants stood with me against the permit for Amoeba Records because it didn't compete with you." He added that Pablo Heising was the exception.

After five hours of testimony, and an admonishment by HANC's Calvin Welch, the commissioners decided that Urban Outfitters was neither necessary nor desirable enough to justify exceeding the 2,500 sq. ft. limit.

—Karen Crommie

*Correction: In the last edition of CVIA News, the total amount of square footage proposed for Urban Outfitters was incorrect. It should have been 8,700 sq. ft.*

## No More Dogging It

While estimates vary widely on the percentage of unlicensed dogs in San Francisco, there's no debating that many San Franciscans have opted to ignore the law requiring them to license any dog over four months old. That could change, however, as the city is now offering on-line dog licensing. The five-step process will allow users to renew or obtain for the first time a one, two or three year tag. Only a credit card and a rabies vaccination certificate are required. For more information, visit <https://services.sfgov.org/accdog/>

—David Hatfield, Friends of Recreation and Parks



## Parking in Golden Gate Park

When the Golden Gate Park Master Plan was completed in 1998 it encouraged pedestrian access, provided incentives for visitors to the park and discouraged commuter parking by identifying areas for time limits. Six years later, it has finally been implemented.



The new parking time limits are aimed at reducing the number of commuter cars.

On January 1, three-hour time-limited parking signs were posted along Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive (between 9th Ave. and Kezar Drive); Kezar Drive to Waller; Conservatory Drive West; Bowling Green and a portion of JFK Drive.

A four-hour time-limit was posted in the Music Concourse area to allow visitors time to visit the Arboretum, Japanese Tea Garden as well as the Museum and Academy when they reopen.

This is a mixed blessing for Haight residents. The time limits eliminate all-day parking in Golden Gate Park but, at the same time, make it more difficult for neighbors to find parking near their homes as they compete for scarce parking spaces with commuters and employees of neighborhood businesses and UCSF. For more information call the Concourse Authority at 831-2727 or visit [www.goldengateparkconcourse.org](http://www.goldengateparkconcourse.org).

## Workforce Housing Legislation Opposed by Neighborhoods

The biggest battle brewing for the March election is ballot Proposition J. This measure would fast-track the construction of up to 10,000 housing units in the downtown and central waterfront over the next ten years. Twenty-seven percent of those units would be targeted at "work force" buyers and would sell at below-market-rate. To qualify, a single purchaser could earn up to \$76,000 annually while a couple could earn up to \$87,000. Developers would have to set aside another 12 percent of the units for lower income buyers.

The proposition has generated opposition because, like the city's "Housing Element," it paves the way for much higher density, thumbing its nose at the hard-won Prop M restrictions of 1988. Under the Workforce Housing measure, the Planning Department would do "neighborhood environmental impact reports" in designated areas prior to development so that builders could count on a construction period free of legal challenge. In addition to increasing the heights and bulk of buildings located in the targeted areas, it sets a dangerous precedent for making major zoning decisions at the ballot box.

As a supervisor, Gavin Newsom tried to push the Workforce Housing proposal, which was authored by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, but he couldn't find the votes. Backers then collected enough signatures to qualify the measure for the March ballot. District 5 Supervisor Matt Gonzalez has joined neighborhood groups and vowed to fight Prop J, feeling it is a "giveaway" to developers. Be prepared for a battle royal.

—Karen Crommie

## Reflections on the Election

Gavin Newsom and Kamala Harris's recent victories as mayor and district attorney have something in common. Both Newsom and Harris stressed the importance of the city's quality-of-life in their campaigns. Their opponents did the opposite.

That's no accident.

In the mayor's race, the doctrinaire progressives (as opposed to the pragmatic reformers) were the big backers of Matt Gonzalez in the runoff, and Tom Ammiano in the first round. Likewise, the doctrinaire progressives were the big



Gavin Newsom is San Francisco's youngest mayor in a hundred years.

backers of Terence Hallinan in the DA's race.

The doctrinaire progressives have been the city's biggest obstructionists in dealing with the quality-of-life crisis. At their worst, they have derided and attacked citizens who dared to raise the issue. At their best, they have displayed a cavalier indifference toward the crisis.

The election returns show that hostility and indifference are no longer satisfactory responses to the crisis.

Citizens will no longer tolerate large areas here that bring to mind scenes from William Golding's "Lord of the Flies." Citizens want to see the city maintain civilized standards, with public places that are safe, clean, and peaceful.

The new mayor and DA should push ahead in implementing civilized standards. Laws that deal with drug-dealing, destructive behavior, and public sanitation should be vigorously enforced.

In the name of the common good and the public health, individuals who violate the basic norms of civilized behavior should be held accountable for their actions. Without accountability to the basic norms of life, there is no civilization.

The new mayor and DA should also work to form political alliances with pragmatic reformers across the spectrum, people who share a sense of civic pride and neighborhood pride. They should all work together to outmaneuver the doctrinaire progressives, and move ahead with positive reforms.

Thanks to Gavin Newsom and Kamala Harris, we now have the opportunity to take the first steps in reclaiming our city for civilization. Let's take them, and make San Francisco a city we can all be proud of again.

—Arthur Evans



Kamala Harris is the first woman to become San Francisco's DA.

**Remember to vote on March 2**

## Enough With the Noise

It would be nice if there were a middle ground, real negotiations and good faith by Rec. and Park, the SF Police and the promoters of events in Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow. Believe me, for six years I have tried to find common ground, but the performers insist on a minimum sound level of 95-100 decibels, the promoters insist on staging the events in Sharon Meadow and sell-



*Over-amplification at park events is a problem that has persisted for years while Rec. and Park has continually turned a blind eye.*

ing 15,000 tickets per day, Rec. and Park insists that Speedway Meadows can only be used once a year (for the Bluegrass Festival) because the grass is too fragile. SFPD insists they can't enforce the law and apparently will give a sound permit to anyone, regardless of what the law says or the permittee does.

Using the law as a bargaining chip in negotiations has been a futile joke. We need something as strong as the opposition's money and 30,000 attendees.

One alternative we could pursue is to gather enough supporters to exercise a degree of political power by (1) consolidating with neighborhood organizations adjacent to the park, (2) meeting individually with members of the Rec. and Park Commission, (3) speaking at the Police Commission and, (4) contacting supervisors of districts bordering the park.

Another alternative is to take a legal course by suing Rec. and Park, enjoining the contracts with the promoters or getting an injunction.

Our negotiating positions range from what we would like, to what we can live with.

- Enforcing Code 47.2(7)—not audible more than 250 feet from the periphery of the attendant audience
- Enforcing Code 47.2(5)—not more than 5 decibels above the ambient level at the next property line (Fell and Stanyan)
- Facing speakers away from residential areas (west). This would directly impact on park activities that Rec. and Park and the Friends of Golden Gate Park favor. In behavioral psychology this is called "forced choice," e.g., *set the table or wash the dishes* and *neither* is not a choice. Thus Rec. and Park would have to choose between the concert, the income and our complaints versus complaints from Rec. and Park activities, such as Shakespeare in the Park, the Concourse museums, Strybing Arboretum, no-car Sundays on JFK and scores of family/cultural outings. This change was accepted in writing by Park Superintendent Dan McKenna, as reflected in the minutes of the April 12, 2002 commission meeting. It has not been implemented or even put in the contracts for the reason previously stated.
- Moving concerts to Speedway Meadow and having existing grass replaced by resistant grass at the promoters' expense. I have called

Lemar Morrison, GGP turf manager (753-7180) to see what could be done to make Speedway Meadow accommodate more frequent concerts.

- Spreading the concerts around (Sharon Meadow, Speedway Meadow, Polo Field, McLaren Park) on a rotating basis among the present events so the number of events at any one site is reduced and each event can look forward to having Sharon Meadow every third or fourth year.

- Forfeit bonds e.g., \$30,000 attached to the contract that is specifically for exceeding maximum sound levels as measured by an independent professional contractor and confirmed by us.

- Reduce the hours of the sound permit from the present six hours (that is usually preceded with an hour or two of testing) to a strictly enforced four hours, including testing. The bond would be forfeited if the time limit were violated. Since the Police Department is admittedly unable to enforce the law and it is not possible to stop a concert once the audience is there, without creating a riot, money is the great leveler.

—Martin Mac Intyre

## Even Here, Crime's a Fact of Life

A recent purse snatching in Cole Valley made headlines because the victim, wearing three-inch heels, chased the robber and, with the help of some construction workers, nabbed him. The thief, Ray Fleming, had been operating in Cole Valley for months until he made the error of robbing Sarah Crandall, a 29 year old marathon runner. There have been a series of robberies in the neighborhood, so many in fact, that 80 people gathered at Park Station a few days before to see what could be done. During the past six weeks there have been 40 auto boosts (car break-ins) and more than an average number of burglaries. With the capture of Fleming, it is hoped that this mini-crime wave will cease.

If you'd like to be better informed on crime in the neighborhood, attend the monthly community police meetings held at Park Station on the last Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. and/or request the crime stats by e-mail from [sfpdparkstation@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:sfpdparkstation@ci.sf.ca.us).

As an example, in the first two weeks of January there were burglaries in the 600 and 700 block of Ashbury, the 900 block of Cole; an assault at Haight and Stanyan and auto boosts on Waller, Oak, Cole and Stanyan. Although the Park Police District is not considered a high crime area, there is enough to be cautious. Never leave anything in your car that can be seen through a window. Have deadbolt locks on your doors and be sure to report anything suspicious to the police. They can't do their jobs without our cooperation.

—Karen Crommie

## Muni Eliminates N-Judah Stop

Muni will consolidate the N-Judah stops at Willard and Hillway into one stop at the track crossover located between Hillway and Willard as a six-month trial starting February 28. The stop consolidation has run into opposition by some neighbors who first want to extract a promise from Muni to slow down the streetcars on narrow Carl Street. The faster the heavy Breda streetcars go, the more the neighbors feel the noise and vibration.

Muni says that "the consolidation of the stops will provide a smoother ride for passengers with more even stop spacing that is well within our passenger service standards." Muni also is requesting that DPT reevaluate the 25 mph speed limit along Carl Street.

—Joan Downey



# Open Letter to San Francisco Supervisors and Mayor

I have traveled the world and have some enormous concerns regarding the existing conditions that continue to plague San Francisco, specifically:

■ Why is it that nearly every block in San Francisco exhibits signs of abuse and vandalism and the negligence of *our* City to clean and maintain public fixtures and/or enforce municipal codes enacted to support and sustain our economic and social well-being?

■ Why is it that elected public officials continue to litter public fixtures with political mini-billboards? These elected public officials are employing the same hired vandals who post other mini-



*Flyers flogging bands and dance clubs are plastered daily on Haight Street utility poles.*

billboards, many of which are illegal placed on public and private fixtures and along highways in violation of the State and Federal Outdoor Advertising Act and other ordinances prohibiting such.

■ Doesn't this posting of personal promotional material on public property present a conflict of interest?

■ Doesn't this practice promote others to post signs and graffiti that sustain our blighted urban environment?

■ Aren't elected officials as well as other public officials agents of blight and disorder when they violate community codes and regulations, allow others to do so, or fail to have public property

and fixtures protected or maintained against abusers and vandals?

■ Why are businesses allowed to maintain tables and chairs, merchandise displays, trash dumpsters, "A" frame signs, shopping carts, litter, and other illegal encroachments on public streets and sidewalks in violation of Federal ADA law, our planning codes, Police Code Section 63, and Public Works Code 675?

■ Why do public officials in the Planning Department and elected officials ignore the illegal billboards installed on the side of liquor stores throughout the city?

■ Have you ever toured other cities in the Bay Area or in the state and questioned why it is that they can maintain public parks, playgrounds, neighborhoods, and fixtures when San Francisco can't?

■ Have you ever considered that if public officials can clean up and maintain Civic Center they could do the same in other neighborhoods?

■ Public officials amass tax obligations from San Franciscans and receive generous pay and fringe benefits. San Franciscans in return have grown accustomed to meager public services with little if any accountability on the part of their public officials. Doesn't this present public officials as a quintessential Slumlord?

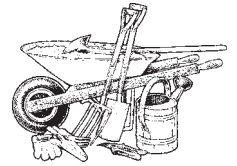
■ Why belabor new legislation if violators and public officials alike ignore existing codes and regulations?

Please take a moment to answer these questions in writing as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration.

—Rick Thurber

## Buena Vista Park Volunteer Days

First Saturday of every month



*We meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Childrens' Playground (Buena Vista West at Waller St.) and start with warm and tasty refreshments. Then we work until noon with the Park's gardeners, on projects that help maintain and improve the Park—rain or shine every month of the year except July and August. All ages and levels of gardening skill are welcome. Gloves and tools provided. Call Richard Magary at 431- 2359 for more information.*

*In cooperation with San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department*

## Glum and Glummer

For those having trouble stomaching the budget woes at the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, better load up on the Pepto Bismol.

Despite falling revenues and a 26 percent decrease in general fund support over the past two years, the RPD budget is expected to take another wallop this year and the clear message coming from the department is that jobs will be eliminated. While plans are not complete, it appears likely the department will have to terminate as many as 74 FTE (full time employees) in order to comply with a pair of budget instructions due on the Mayor's desk in January and February.

Although the Recreation and Park Commission's Finance Committee is seeking ways to smooth out the numbers, the RPD must cut \$2.9 million from the fourth quarter of the 2003-04 budget and a total of \$8.5 million by the close of the 2004-05 budget, according to RPD Finance Director Michael Frank. "Seventy five percent of our budget is staffing and the rest cannot be reduced," Frank told the Finance Committee, explaining the need for job cuts. "Reductions over the past two years means we're already pretty much down to the bone."

Even more bleak was Frank's explanation that the elimination of 74 FTE likely means more than 74 lost jobs because many RPD employees work part-time. "We don't know how many bodies that means, but more than 74," he said.

Jobs cuts will most likely result in the reduction of open hours at some facilities and also the closure of some facilities on non-peak days, but details have not been released by the RPD. Under the current plan, which still leaves the RPD \$1 million short of its required \$2.9 million cut in the fourth quarter, recreation director/supervisor, gardener and structural maintenance positions will be cut. RPD's deadline for meeting the \$2.9 million cut requirement is January 16.

Final plans for the cuts are due on February 20. The Board of Supervisors will conduct budget meetings in April and May before submitting a proposed final budget to the Mayor on June 1.

—David Hatfield, Friends of Rec. and Park



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

## CVIA Board Actions

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA board meetings 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. To learn the location, leave a message at 431-1414 or [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com).

### November

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together and the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods.
- Heard presentation by Mary Helen Briscoe on a proposed farmers' market in the Panhandle. General opinion was that although we would probably use it, CVIA has long been opposed to non-recreational uses of the park land. Decided to remain neutral.
- Discussed continuing problem of overamplified music at park events and plans of Martin Mac Intyre to force Rec. and Park to take responsibility.
- Discussed N-Line track replacement and the elimination of the Willard/Parnassus bus stop.
- Discussed conditional use authorization being sought by John Brennan to lease 8,700 sq. ft. of his new Haight Street building to Urban Outfitters. Board members could see both good and bad in this addition to Haight St. so decided neither to support nor oppose.
- Discussed the first Cole Valley street fair. Expressed appreciation for the display of early photos of the greater Haight assembled and mounted by Jessica Justino for the CVIA booth which drew many favorable comments.

(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 San Francisco Neighborhoods.
- Discussed contributions for the upcoming year and decided to continue the subject in March.
- Noted that Jeff Wilkens has been elected to head the Kezar Advisory Committee
- Approved endorsement of Chris Duderstadt to the Concourse Authority's citizens advisory committee.
- Approved the concept of illuminating the Panhandle with strings of lights during the Christmas season as it was in early days to commemorate the 75th year of lighting the city's Christmas tree. Richard Shadoian to take suggestion to 5Together.
- Approved motion to join Martin Mac Intyre's crusade to control the level of amplification at park events. A meeting of all neighborhood organizations will meet on January 28. Joint presentation to be made at February meeting of the Rec. and Park Commission.
- Discussed city policies to restrict Design Review, the Housing Element and upcoming "Workforce" ballot measure.
- Nancy Corsaut reported that incorporation papers have been submitted to State of California.

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

## Citizens Sue Over Concourse

Acting on behalf of the Alliance for Golden Gate Park, Stephen Volker and Associates served papers on the City of San Francisco to stop the Concourse Garage until a number of issues are resolved and corrected. The suit, filed on December 1, does a very complete job of covering all the issues we have been raising repeatedly for several years. From the destruction of historic resources, increased conges-



*Park activists succeeded in saving the concourse trees and now face an uphill battle to force compliance with Prop J.*

tion, endangerment of pedestrians, and lack of true alternatives, to the violation of Prop J with the financing arrangement. It's all there. All 40 pages will be posted soon at [www.sfpix.com/academy\\_deir\\_comments](http://www.sfpix.com/academy_deir_comments).

Of note is a little notice that showed up on the bulletin board at City Hall last week listing a lawsuit filed by the City Attorney to block any lawsuits being filed against the Garage after 30 days. TOO LATE, we've filed. Now begins the effort to raise additional support to fund this ongoing battle.

I wish that this were not necessary, but the "private/public" partnership presented by the MCCP\* is anything but public. It reeks of the deal for cargo storage at SFO that the supervisors recently dumped. A small group of very wealthy individuals has demanded sovereignty over the heart of our Golden Gate Park and we the people are to pay them for the privilege of giving it to them and watching them destroy it. It should have never have come to this. The public repeatedly stated very clearly our concerns for our Park. But we were told, "So sue us!" And we have.

—Chris Duderstadt

\*Music Concourse Community Partnership

## Paying the Piper

In response to the bottom-liners who loved the Heart of Cole Fair but asked, "How much did it cost?" Co-chair Maryo Moganam has graciously provided us the figures.

The permits\* cost \$325, police \$1500-2500, insurance \$3,900, portable toilets \$550, stage \$875, cleanup \$1000, and miscellaneous supplies \$250.

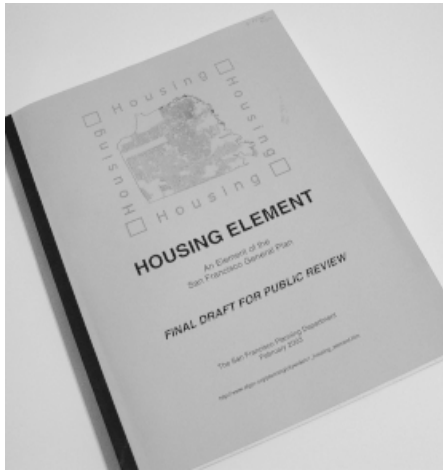
The T-shirts and posters were a self sustaining project designed to raise enough money to pay for themselves and generate seed money for next year's fair. Haight Street fair producer Pablo Heising volunteered help in organizing the event and all of the musicians donated their time.

\*Booths, vendor permits, and Department of Public of Health fees were paid by vendors at a cost of \$50-\$300 per booth.



## Plans Afoot to Change City

The controversial "Housing Element" which is part of San Francisco's long range planning policy, continues to come under fire by neighborhood groups for raising present height limits of buildings



*The State of California requires each county to set a policy for how it will meet its housing needs every five to ten years.*

on transit corridors, permitting in-law apartments within 1250 feet of them and waiving the current requirement for 1:1 off-street parking.

Activists are strongly critical of the lack of neighborhood input during the writing of the document. Barbara Meskunas, president of the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods said, "The state requires full community participation. You don't just bring SPUR\* and nonprofit developers to talk with

Amit Ghosh (city planner), who wants San Francisco to have the density of Paris or Calcutta." Meskunas added, "This document is not flawed, it's critically flawed. The only way to solve it is to tear it in half."

On January 10, the Planning Department issued a preliminary declaration that the environmental effect of this policy would be "negative" (neg dec). This caused an even greater uproar. "To rezone the whole city and only require a negative declaration is ludicrous," said Meskunas.

With the filing date for appeal coming up on January 30, neighborhood groups in growing numbers are joining an ad hoc group that has hired an attorney specializing in environmental law to appeal the Planning Department's negative declaration. They are asking CVIA, along with other members of the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods, to contribute to the legal fund. The CVIA board will be taking this up at its next meeting.

If you want to get involved in this citywide issue, contact Charlotte Maeck at 921-3891.

—Karen Crommie

\*The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association.



Captain John Ehrlich holds community meetings on the last Thursday of every month. 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.

**February 26, March 25, April 29**

Call Sgt. Mark Porto for details: 242-3032

## How the Haight Voted

After most elections, housing activist Calvin Welch analyzes the voting choices of the Haight.\* This year it was a different Welch that faced a group of 15 at the Park Branch Library in January. Perhaps chastened by his high-profile personal loss (he stood with then-candidate Matt Gonzalez on the Chronicle's front page), he was mild mannered, thoughtful and even occasionally respectful of mayor Gavin Newsom. He candidly admitted what he felt was the failing of the left in the last election: they carried their grudges too long; the unions sat out the election; when it came time to unite behind Gonzalez in the runoff, it was simply too late.

The Haight had a higher turnout in the November election than the citywide average and, no surprise, favored Gonzalez over Newsom nearly two to one. Notable was the marked decline of support for Ammiano who was the neighborhood darling in the last mayoral election. He and Alioto each garnered a little over 700 votes as compared to Gonzalez's two thousand plus.

Then an amazing thing happened. Instead of interest dropping off for the runoff, as is most often the case, the amount of Haight voters who went to the polls increased from 5,567 to 7,170. It was clear that Gonzalez had caught the interest of a group of new voters and they came out in droves to support him.

The results on the propositions revealed that although the Haight voted by a healthy majority to back Prop H (police accountability) and Prop L (SF minimum wage), they also supported Prop M, the measure against aggressive panhandling, which everyone thought would get trounced in the Haight—proving that even "progressives" don't like panhandling.

Going back to the general election, it was no surprise that Hallinan, a long time resident and kind of folk hero, was the overwhelming choice of Haight voters for District Attorney. Fazio and Harris split the opposition with Harris receiving 1,749 and Fazio 1,085 (to Hallinan's 2,875). In the runoff, although Fazio's backers for the most part threw their votes to Harris, Hallinan still won the neighborhood by 704 votes.

Looking beyond the Haight to the wider field of District 5 (Gonzalez is the District 5 supervisor), the only precincts he failed to win were the six in the Western Addition with a majority of African American voters. They had evidently transferred their loyalty directly from Willie to Gavin.

Like the *Bay Guardian*, Welch felt that Gonzalez had actually gained much for the city. In Welch's view, the success of Gonzalez put to rest a growing opposition to District Elections; he unified the left and increased their numbers by bringing out new young people ready to support a "progressive" agenda; and he has come out of the race with a personal mandate to increase fund-raising and absentee ballot registration. So anyone who believed the victory of Newsom would put the city back on track cannot breathe easy. Gonzalez has already proclaimed his new agenda for the city and is laying plans for the next round. (See pg.8 of this issue.)

—Karen Crommie

\*In his analysis, Welch splits the Haight into North Panhandle, Flatland and Hills but the results above are for the Haight district as a whole, defined by Stanyan to Divisadero and Fulton to 17th St.



# Forewarned is Forearmed: Gonzalez Has Plans for You

Not only is District 5 Supervisor Matt Gonzalez presiding over the Board, he has vigorously launched a campaign to resolve the \$40,000 of debt he incurred during his recent run for mayor. In addition to e-mail solicitation (“just click here”) and staging fundraisers, he is looking toward the future.



*Riding on his popularity in the mayoral run-off, Gonzalez is determined to consolidate his supporters and advance his “progressive” agenda.*

The fact that Newsom’s main advantage came from his reservoir of absentee ballots, was a lesson not lost on Gonzalez and has held the first of what will be many “Permanent Absentee Registration Events.”

More important is the seriousness with which he is accepting the mantle of progressive leadership. He wasted no time issuing an agenda for the near future. Below is what it says:

### **GONZALEZ ON FUTURE ISSUES:**

*First on our agenda must be a focus on the March ballot and ordinances that can be proposed this year. We also have the November elections to consider, specifically Community College Board and School Board races, not to mention the District Supervisor races in odd numbered districts.*

*Supervisor Newsom’s replacement will also face the voters in November. Here are some of my thoughts on measures that the progressive community should be working on this year. Naturally, it is not an exhaustive list.*

### **GONZALEZ ON MARCH PROPOSITIONS:**

- *Oppose Newsom’s illusory Work Force Housing Initiative (Prop. J)*
- *Support a ban on diesel Muni buses with timetables for implementation (Prop. I)*
- *Support the initiative to curb city department dissemination of private information as required by the Patriot Act (Prop. E)*

### **GONZALEZ ON FUTURE BALLOT MEASURES:**

- *Roll back Muni fares with free Muni for youth, seniors, and the disabled*
- *Support noncitizen voting in school board elections*
- *Base business tax on gross receipts rather than payroll*
- *Draft a real workforce housing initiative to minimize developer giveaways*
- *Support term limits for city commissioners*

- *Municipal public power measure*
- *Consolidate future mayoral and District Attorney races to coincide with those of U.S. presidential and congressional races to ensure a higher voter turnout*

### **GONZALEZ ON FUTURE ORDINANCES:**

- *Public benefits package to expand existing [inclusionary] housing requirements*
- *Require economic disclosure statements for all city commissioners (before they are approved)*
- *Formula business (chain store) advance notification to neighbors/ban in certain commercial districts*
- *Community Land Trust Ordinance*
- *Ban demolition of residential buildings of over 20 units meant to circumvent rent control laws*
- *Prohibit Department of Human Services’ fingerprinting (not required by State or Federal law)*
- *Give local, small businesses priority in contracting with city*

Read entire statement at <http://www.sanfrancisco.sentinel.com/id287.htm>

## Sewer Work Nearly Over

In spite of torrential rainstorms, parts shortages and a sink hole that could swallow a car, the current phase of the Ashbury Street sewer replacement project is slated for completion in late February.

As part of San Francisco’s ambitious plan to replace all of its ageing terra-cotta sewer lines with giant pipes made of concrete, the current Ashbury Street work is divided into two distinct areas



*The experimental traffic circle at the intersection of Page and Ashbury has been temporarily removed during sewer replacement work.*

of work with different schedules. Construction work on the two block section from Oak to Haight is being done on weekdays and the area from Frederick to Clifford Terrace on weekends only.

Complicating the work at the Oak and Ashbury intersection is the installation of the latest auxiliary water supply system (AWSS) for the San Francisco Fire Department. An essential bearing for the AWSS will not arrive from the manufacturer until late February delaying the final phase of the work. For more information, contact Bill Adams, Public Affairs Officer for DPW at 437-7038.

**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 [kcrommie@aol.com](mailto:kcrommie@aol.com). We encourage submissions from anyone interested in our neighborhood. Send questions or comments to the above address or call 431-1414.

Editor ..... Karen Crommie  
Production ..... David Crommie  
Editorial Assistance ..... Joan Downey



## Traffic Circles "Trial" Continues

The trial period for five "traffic circles" on Page Street has come and gone. Seeking the opinion of nearby residents, the Department of Parking and Traffic sent out 2000 questionnaires of which 200 were returned. Sixty percent said they didn't like the traffic circles while 40 percent approved of them.

But when the respondents were asked if they would like the circles better if certain signs indicating direction and right-of-way were installed, the vote was 50-50. And that's just what DPT has done: added signs. There are "Yield" signs; there are diagrams with arrows indicating a roundabout traffic pattern; and there are signs indicating the street as a bicycle throughway.

The traffic circles arrived on Page street because the Bicycle Coalition was able to get a grant from the Bay Area Quality Management District. Bicyclists need an east/west route across the city and Page Street has been designated as one vital link. The Bicycle Coalition newsletter, Tube Times, recently said that their plan is to make Page Street a "Bike Boulevard," which is a street where bicycles have priority over everything else.

The police and Planning Department have signed off on the project but the Fire Department is dragging its feet. Whether or not the delay is attributable to the departure of Fire Chief Mario Trevino or a real concern for fire truck access is anyone's guess. The Bicycle



While warmly received by bicyclists, the Page St. traffic circles are opposed by many pedestrians who no longer feel safe crossing the street.

Coalition was a big supporter of Supervisor Matt Gonzalez in his recent bid for mayor and, reports Bridget Smith of DPT, "He is following the matter very closely."

If you have an opinion, do not wait. Contact Supervisor Gonzalez at 554-7630 or matt.gonzalez@sfgov.org.

—Karen Crommie

## Panhandle Neighbors Try New Approach to Park Maintenance

Panhandle neighbors, equipped with a palm pilot and camera took their first lesson in an innovative method to appraise needed maintenance in the park. In a training session given by Sam Shaw of ParkScan, we walked the Panhandle from Masonic to Stanyan in



Panhandle maintenance is now monitored by neighborhood volunteers employing a user-friendly technology called ParkScan.

a loop along the north walk and back on the south walk. Shaw provided an aerial map on which we marked approximately 18 stations to be programmed into the palm pilot for checking when doing the actual scan. The program includes monitoring park benches, lamp posts, utility boxes, lawns and special check boxes for the children's playground and adjoining toilet.

On December 14, three neighbors made their first "official" appraisal of the Panhandle. Volunteers Alex Adams, Robert McNeill and Mary Helen Briscoe found the most troubling problems were the rotted park benches and an area used as a toilet. The survey may be viewed at [www.parkscansf.org](http://www.parkscansf.org).

ParkScan is a project of San Francisco's Neighborhood Parks Council. Volunteer observers rate a uniform set of park conditions using handheld computers and digital cameras. ParkScan has begun to demonstrate a measurable improvement in park upkeep in the parks where the surveys are being done.

—Mary Helen Briscoe

## CVIA Officers

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

## Cviasf@aol.com

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

### Volunteer Opportunities



Play games with elementary school students at recess. Depending on the school, times vary from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call SF School Volunteers at 749-3700 or go to

[www.sfsv.org](http://www.sfsv.org) for more information.

## Letters

### Heart of Cole Street Fair

*Congratulations to CVIA, the Cole Valley Merchants and everyone who staffed the fair, especially Lori Elder and Maryo Moganam who worked endless hours to put on such a wonderfully successful event on October 19th. The photo exhibit was awesome. As a longtime resident of our neighborhood I am proud to be part of such a great community.*

*Estela Becerra*

### Gonzalez's Chain store legislation

*If you're still interested in feedback on the proposed legislation against chain stores: I think it's a lousy idea. Chain stores provide enormous value to shoppers; otherwise, of course, they wouldn't have been so successful and become chains in the first place. Chains obviously shouldn't be given preferential zoning treatment, but neither should they have to jump through extra regulatory hoops that other stores do not; to do so is to unfairly and inefficiently reduce consumer choice in order to protect the delicate sensibilities of a few. If an individual doesn't like chains, then he absolutely has the right to not patronize them, but he does not have the right to reduce my consumer choice—my "leverage"—by preventing me from shopping at a chain in the first place.*

*Chris Boyd*

### Panhandle Farmers Market

*We have to be careful what we wish for regarding Rec. and Park changing their Master Plan. Many of us oppose the recycling center on grounds that it is not suitable for park use. What will that do to our argument? While I think 4-5 hours of vegetables and fruits is tolerable and won't have that much of an impact, expanding to other things like native plant gardens, nutrition and education is ridiculous. We don't need those things in that little plot of park.*

*Carole Glosenger*

*I am in favor of the Panhandle farmers market idea. There is a market at Fillmore and O'Farrell which has grown steadily. There is a table there describing the organization which supports these markets. They do not take business away from the local merchants; they do give the small independent farmer an opportunity. Parking, however, will be a major problem in the Panhandle.*

*Charles Gagan, S.J.*

*I am very much against the idea of any type of market in the Panhandle. How can we with one hand condemn the BMX event and then replace it with an event that produces more garbage. There is no parking for any event in the area—which means driveways will be used. I would, instead, focus on the real problems: drug use leading to needles left near the playground, illegal campers leaving their belongings all over the benches—to say nothing of making the place a horrible experience to walk through, and the general trashing by users of the ball courts.*

*Adam Kleinberg*

*In my opinion, the last thing Panhandle residents need is more difficulty parking. A farmers market would not be such a great idea. It would surely disrupt the flow of traffic on both Oak and Fell with people driving 1 mile an hour trying to park. I think the best place to have a farmers market would be the music concourse (no grass to trample, no noise issues-perfect!!). Maybe even bring in some live music.*

*Daniel Barber*

## Postscripts

Ellen Curry wrote CVIA questioning the large (five foot) backlit sign at the entrance to the **Walgreens** parking lot which hadn't been mentioned in remodeling plans. Former CVIA president **Joan Downey** contacted the regional manager, **Bill Hose**, who assured her that it would be removed. And, it was.

\* \* \*

The legislation introduced late last year by **Supervisor Matt Gonzalez**, requiring chain stores to notify surrounding neighbors, failed before the planning commission in a 4-2 vote. Existing law already requires neighborhood notification by any business applying for conditional use authorization. The Gonzalez legislation would have applied to situations such as Walgreens replacing Mt. Sutro Fine Foods where no conditional use authorization was necessary.

\* \* \*

The bagel shop on Masonic near Haight has been replaced by the **Kona Shores Ice Cream and Surf Shop**. Yes, you read correctly. They've brought Hawaii's famous **Lappert's Ice Cream** to the Haight as well as some nifty beachwear. Now if only they can bring some of that tropical weather.

\* \* \*

Also on the missing list is mayoral aide **Olivia Swilley** who has left her position as liaison to District 5 for a new position in the district office of **Assemblyman Mark Leno**. There she will serve as liaison to the African American and Senior Communities as well as being Leno's liaison to City/County of S.F. Employment. Since the 13th Assembly District includes much of District 5, she will continue to work with the Haight in that capacity.

\* \* \*

A branch of "**Curves**" opened recently at 638 Stanyan Street. It's a fitness studio with a unique and very simple method. Thirty minutes, twice a week, you do a workout circuit on machines. Because



it is a scheduled class with around ten other people, it functions as a support group as well as an exercise class. Curves has more than 5,000 locations all over the US, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

\* \* \*

**Rebecca Silverberg** tells us that, while speaking at a West Portal meeting, then-candidate **Gavin Newsom**, said he thought the Housing Element (*see pg. 7*) would work against the best interests of certain neighborhoods and needed rewriting. Fuel for the fire that is erupting around this controversial issue.



We were reminded by CVIA's vice-president **Richard Shadoian**, who is also a member of the Elections Commission, that the election coming up on March 2 would run a lot smoother if responsible neighbors volunteered to work the polls. You get paid and can arrange to work one-half day if you pair up with another person. Call the Department of Elections at 554-4375 and they will tell you how to go about becoming a poll worker.

\* \* \*

**Grant Phillips** is delighted to have two new hair stylists, **Huy** and **Brooke**, join his crew at **Mane Attractions** on Carl St. Of course it takes a lot to beat **Nancy Ahn**, who is a favorite of many CVIA members.

\* \* \*

Speaking of Carl, those who attended the Park District Police community meeting last week were taken aback to hear that a woman was arrested for operating a house of prostitution at 132A Carl St. Who knew?

\* \* \*

Still on Carl Street, we see that **Lori Elder**, the dynamo behind the recent "Heart of Cole" fair, has closed the doors to her gallery-studio.



dio. **The Shop** showcased the work of artists and artisans rarely seen elsewhere.

\* \* \*

The **Lycée Français** is going to have a fund-raising auction ("Casino Royale") on Friday, March 5 in Golden Gate Park's County Fair Building. Call 661-5232 for details.

\* \* \*

Two more Haight Street businesses have called it quits. **Dharma**, the women's clothing store on the corner of Clayton and **Happy Trails**. Although the whimsical novelty shop will close on Haight, it will continue doing business at its Market St. store in the Castro.

\* \* \*

**Chris Cunnie**, head of the **Police Officers Association**, is stepping down after eight years to take the position of executive vice president of **Walden House** drug treatment center. He also serves on the board of **Hamilton Family Center**.

—Karen Crommie

# 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 Gavin Newsom** ..... 554-6141

City Hall - Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
S.F., CA 94102

**Acting Chief of Police Heather Fong** ..... 553-1551

Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.  
S.F. CA 94103

**District Attorney Kamala Harris** ..... 553-1741

Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.  
S.F. CA 94103

**Captain John Ehrlich** ..... 242-3000

Park District Police Station  
1899 Waller St.  
S.F., CA 94117

## San Francisco Board of Supervisors

City Hall - Room 244

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Telephone: 554-5184 FAX: 554-5163

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2. Michela Alioto-Pier Michela.Alioto@sfgov.org	554-7752	554-7483
3. Aaron Peskin Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org	554-7450	554-7454
4. Fiona Ma Fiona.Ma@sfgov.org	554-7460	554-7432
5. <b>Matt Gonzalez</b> Matt.Gonzalez@sfgov.org	<b>554-7630</b>	<b>554-7634</b>
6. Chris Daly Chris.Daly@sfgov.org	554-7970	554-7974
7. Tony Hall Tony.Hall@sfgov.org	554-6516	554-6546
8. Bevan Dufty Bevan.Dufty@sfgov.org	554-6968	554-6909
9. Tom Ammiano Tom.Ammiano@sfgov.org	554-5144	554-6255
10. Sophie Maxwell Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11. Gerardo Sandoval Gerardo.Sandoval@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

### An Evening of Poker at The Booksmith

Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Join The Booksmith and author James McManus for a celebration of the paperback publication of "Positively Fifth Street"—the best selling account of the World Series of Poker. McManus will speak about his book and lead a poker tutorial. Limited seating. Call 863-8688 to reserve a seat at the poker table. The Booksmith is at 1644 Haight Street.

## BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

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

be constructively involved in San Francisco's governmental process. Annual dues are \$20.00. Membership provides contact with other responsible neighbors, a quarterly newsletter and participation in an active forum for effecting change. If you would like to become a member, please send in your dues with the form below.

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



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

Here's my check for \$20.00 made payable to: COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Renewal

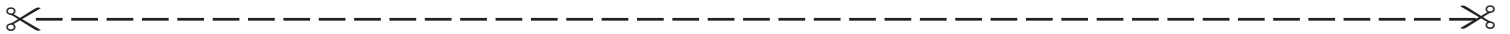
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

What I like about the Neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

What I dislike about the neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Cole Valley Improvement Association**

**P.O. Box 170611**

**San Francisco, CA 94117**

**CVIASF@aol.com**