

CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XVIII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

February 2005

Ross Mirkarimi Sworn in

In pouring rain they came to City Hall, jamming into the stately chambers to witness the swearing in of seven supervisors. Four re-elected to a second term (McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval, Ammiano); two elected for the first time after earlier appointments (Alioto-Pier, Elsbernd); and one elected for the first time—District 5’s Ross Mirkarimi.

After the swearing in ceremony, conducted by Judge Robert Dondero, each supervisor took the opportunity to express his/her gratitude to parents, spouses, campaign staff and supporters.



In their speeches Supervisors Ammiano and Elsbernd were both moved to tears. Supervisor McGoldrick spoke in French to his

mother who stood to applause. Supervisor Sandoval gave a moving tribute to his father, who responded with a “thumbs up.” The small, rambunctious children of Supervisor Alioto-Pier had to be repeatedly herded by their father, while the wheelchair-bound supervisor spoke of the people who had helped her over her lifetime.

Mirkarimi’s speech was a mixture of idealism and gratitude referring to his multi-ethnic background (Russian and Iranian) and the circuitous life path that led him to City Hall. Anyone who watched



Mirkarimi chose neighborhood activist Cheryl Brodie as his administrative aide.

his campaign would agree that it was a steep learning curve for the young investigator from the DA’s office. Gradually he accepted the fact that in order to represent the diverse group of San Franciscans living in District 5 (Haight, Western Addition, Inner Sunset,

Continued on page 2, column 2

Wells Fargo Returns to Haight

It arrived in the mail. An announcement from the Planning Department saying that on December 10 they had received a building permit application for a “financial service” to operate at 1726 Haight Street between Shrader and Cole. Yes, Haight Street was getting its bank back.

Soon after the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association was visited by a representative from Wells Fargo confirming that they will be occupying 4,500 square feet in the new mixed-use building owned by John Brennan. Construction is estimated to begin sometime in



After eight years without banking services, the neighborhood will have a Wells Fargo Bank at 1726 Haight St.

April, with doors opening in late summer. Wells signed a five-year lease with an option for extension.

If they fulfill the lease, it will be four years longer than they stayed the last time. In August 1996, with much fanfare, Wells Fargo took over the building occupied by First Interstate at the corner of Haight and Belvedere; in less than a year they closed their doors, leaving in their wake two ATMs and a night deposit drop. This forced residents with banking business, especially merchants, to go to the branch on Irving St. The empty building was purchased by Gary Frank, owner of The Booksmith, who leased it to Villains II, a high fashion clothing shop.

INSIDE

Board Actions	8	Graffiti Worse.....	8
Booksmith Event.....	2	NERT Training Offered	10
Buena Vista Park Volunteers .	4	Park Gardeners.....	9
Coffee, Tea & Spice Closes ...	9	PG&E Rate Hike.....	2
Concourse Controversy	3	Police Meetings.....	9
Concourse Landmarking.....	10	Postscripts.....	7
Chain Stores Discouraged	6	Rec. and Park Fees	7
Crime Report.....	5	Sgt. Porto Retires.....	7
Evans’ Book	4	Woodland Ave. Changes.....	4
Gonzalez’ Advice	9	UCSF Plans	6

Last year Haight merchants fought Brennan's attempt to lease some of the building's ground floor space to Urban Outfitters, claiming that the chain would violate the square footage cap and undercut smaller Haight Street businesses selling the same youth-oriented merchandise. They made a convincing case at the Planning Commission, and the conditional use permit was not granted.

Whether this had anything to do with the presence of the bank is anyone's guess. Ironically, the person who fought hardest to get banking back in the Haight, former president of the Haight Ashbury Merchants Association K.C. Evans, closed the doors of his Coffee Tea and Spice last month. (See article on pg. 9.) —Karen Crommie

PG&E's 11% Rate Hikes Discussed at Haight Forum

PG&E plans to increase both residential gas and electric rates 11%, while at the same time decreasing the cost to large businesses by 10%. In effect, the residents and small businesses will be paying some of the utility costs of big businesses.

At the January 13 meeting of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC), chaired by vice president Tes Welborn, there was a panel discussion on PG&E's proposal. PG&E declined to attend. Panelists were Dwight Cocke of The Utility Reform Network (TURN), Theresa Mueller of the City Attorney's Office and Bruce Brugman, publisher of the San Francisco Bay Guardian newspaper.

Dwight Cocke sees 2005 as a pivotal year in which decisions concerning the energy business must be made by banks, governments and utility companies.



For more than 10 years rates have risen. Customers have been forced to pay the tab for PG&E's bankruptcy. Consumers who have no say are paying for deregulation and for nuclear power we didn't want. (\$750,000 from the gas rate increase will go to repair the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in San Luis Obispo County); up to now, there has been no widespread public input or outrage.

There has been a serious battle building for decades between businesses and residents. If the public does not speak out, decisions will be made this year that will cost dearly. Cocke urges everyone to go to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) hearings. Individuals will have two to three minutes to speak, and eloquence is not as important as caring enough about the issue to actually be there.

Theresa Mueller's office, under city attorney Dennis Herrera, is studying the legality of raising the franchise fee, a charge to the utility company for operation. They are challenging CPUC's plan (with PG&E) for the 8 billion dollar bankruptcy bailout paid by citizens because of PG&E's bad decisions.

Looking into the outage last December caused by a fire at PG&E's Mission Substation, Mueller's office found that there was a similar problem in 1996, which in spite of promises, was not fixed. They have filed a motion with the CPUC to correct the situation and determine the appropriate penalties.

The City and State also have a case against PG&E's holding company for the return of five billion dollars taken out of PG&E in bankruptcy.

Mueller's office hears constantly from the utility companies but not the public. She encourages everyone to get involved now.

Bruce Brugman has a stormy history with PG&E dating from 1969 and has been pushing San Francisco to adopt public power,

citing the Raker Act of 1939 which required San Francisco to have public power. He champions the following:

The contract for a Franchise Fee, set at .5%, should be broken and fees raised. The Supervisors and the City Attorney should support this raise.

The city should do a study of the impact of the private utility monopoly on high prices.

The city should make sure the Controller's office shows gross receipts from PG&E, filed yearly, and should encourage energy efficiency. Especially, the city should pursue public power.

All three panelists urged groups and individuals to fight the hardship and unfairness of the proposed raises. Public input is crucial change. They urge everyone to attend the CPUC meeting in San Francisco on February 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Auditorium, State Office building, 505 Van Ness Avenue.

For information and help, contact Dwight Cocke at 929-88 ext. 315. For help with billing or communicating with PG&E, contact consumer advocate Shlomit Gorin, email: shlomit@turn.org

Mirkarimi Sworn In—Continued from Page 1

Japantown), he would have to genuinely expand his views. No one revealed this as much as his choice of Cheryl Brodie as one of two aides.

Brodie is best known as president of 5Together, the umbrella organization for all District 5 neighborhood groups. Prior to the November election, she organized the best candidate forums in the city, no easy task with 22 contenders. Brodie also served as president of the Stanyan Fulton Neighborhood Organization and is an enthusiastic advocate of a Sunday morning Farmers' Market on the Panhandle. She has also been an active voice for small property owners. Since her appointment she has turned over the 5Together gavel to Rich Shadoian (CVIA vice-president), who will be acting as head of the organization until elections are held in April.

Mirkarimi's second aide is Boris Delafin who comes with a long record of service at the Department of Elections and is highly regarded for his advocacy of public access to governmental processes.

When Supervisor Aaron Peskin, the newly-elected president of the board, announced his committee assignments last week, Mirkarimi got a place on both the Rules Committee and the Audit Committee, indicating Peskin values him for his policy acumen but does not feel he is ready for the Finance-Budget Committee, at least until he has clocked in some time on the board.

So far, Mirkarimi, who calls himself a "populist," has opposed the widening of Martin Luther King Drive and the Muni fare increase, backed Supervisor Daly's measure to donate \$100,000 from the city's general fund to tsunami relief (it lost), and voted against the prohibition of smoking in public parks because golf courses were exempted (it passed). Gonzalez lite? We'll have to wait and see.

—Karen Crommie

Harvey Pekar at Booksmith

Best known for his autobiographical comic book series *American Splendor*, a first-person account of the author's downtrodden life, Harvey Pekar was also the subject of a much-lauded 2003 film of the same name. He will be speaking and signing his new book, "Best of American Splendor," at The Booksmith on Friday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m.



WIDEN a Road in Golden Gate Park to More Traffic?

Just before Christmas, the Concourse Authority and Recreation and Park Commission gave final approval for a plan to widen to four lanes Martin Luther King Drive in Golden Gate Park. WIDEN a road in Golden Gate Park? What's up?

Seven years ago, voters approved Proposition J, the Golden Gate Park Revitalization Act of 1998. This measure called for the



creation of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority (CA), to oversee plans for an 800-car underground parking garage and the creation of a pedestrian oasis in the Golden Gate Park Concourse. Prop J says:

"The principal purposes of this ordinance are to (1) create a pedestrian oasis in the Music Concourse area of Golden Gate Park, situated between the de Young Museum and the Academy of Sciences (the "Concourse") and (2) take steps to reduce the impact of automobiles in the Park while still providing long-term assurance of safe, reliable and convenient access for visitors to the Park, including its cultural institutions."

"An underground public parking facility within or near the Concourse with a dedicated entrance and exit (or entrances and exits) outside of the Park will enhance such public access. It will also minimize the potential conflict between recreational enthusiasts and automobile traffic within the Park, including John F. Kennedy Drive and abutting roads."

Prop J passed by a simple majority and required that no funding by the City and County of San Francisco would be used, but taxpayer funds have already been used. State Prop 40 funds were used to pay for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and over \$300,000 in engineering contracts directly related to the garage design. Also, the Lease Agreement by the CA is to have the City and County of San Francisco underwrite revenue bonds to construct the underground parking facility. Again, this violates the spirit of Prop J, which would have required a 2/3 majority at the polls were it to be funded by a general bond.

We all knew that the purpose of Prop J and the CA was to build a garage for Museum and Academy patrons, and that's what they got busy with. What we didn't know is that they would violate the spirit and letter of Prop J, disregard important Golden Gate Park Master Plan elements, and ignore the city's Transit First policy and neighborhood input.

The Concourse Authority held a number of meetings to get community input about the garage design. One strong complaint came from neighbors living north of the park about the original design that had only one entrance at 10th and Fulton. Mayor Brown inter-

vened and a second entrance *within* the Concourse was added. Early in 2003, CVIA, along with other neighborhood, environmental, and transit advocacy groups, objected to not only the second garage entrance inside the Park that violated Prop J, but also the removal of the "green" elements of the original garage design and the destruction of the historic tunnels. Instead, the objections were pushed aside, and the construction of the garage proceeded without an approved design because of the time constraint of coordinating the new deYoung opening in October 2005.

When the city signed a Lease Agreement for the garage in the



Concourse just over a year ago, the city also filed a blanket "validation suit" to prevent legal challenges in order to start selling revenue bonds to fund the garage. Citizens protesting the agreement filed two lawsuits. The suits questioned the funding, the environmental impacts, and compliance with city and state law, including Prop J. The suits were combined and heard by Judge James Warren. On August 10, 2004 he made a provisional ruling that only found fault with the second, southern entrance located in the Concourse just off MLK Drive. The judgement stated that they "may not construct an entrance/exit inside the park without first attempting to design a dedicated access route to that entrance that itself begins at a location outside of the park."

Following Warren's ruling the CA presented the widening of Martin Luther King (MLK) at 9th and Lincoln to accommodate a four lane road into and out of the park as the solution for a dedicated garage entrance. The outside lanes would be "dedicated" access into and out of the garage but would share the lanes with Muni and bicyclists. The plan calls for eliminating all parking on MLK from Lincoln to the Concourse. **Widening roadways and increasing vehicular traffic in Golden Gate Park violates the Golden Gate Park Master Plan.**

Ten other options were also formulated in response to Warren's ruling, but only the widening MLK option was seriously considered, even though the Concourse Authority Board instructed Director Michael Ellzey to prepare two additional options for their consideration. When time came to vote on the options, the Planning Department presented the Concourse Authority with an Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report during the meeting. The directors approved the option with only Commissioner John Rizzo (Cole Valley resident) dissenting after requesting more time to review the document.

One option that many dissenters would have liked to see studied more seriously was the option that eliminates the southern en-

Ed. Note: Both photos of the entrance to Golden Gate Park from 9th Ave and Lincoln Way are by Chris Duderstadt. His photo representation of the proposed four-lane street appears on his website www.sfpix.com and is reprinted here with his permission.

trance altogether. With the one northern garage entrance, the traffic would be increased at 10th and Fulton by a small percentage only on Sundays. Since Fulton carries about 1/3 fewer cars than Lincoln and is not a commercial corridor, the added cars would have little impact.

Adding the southern entrance to the park would: greatly impact the commercial district south of the park; make it more dangerous for pedestrians entering the park; slow down Muni lines 44, 71, N-Judah, 66 and 6; and bring unacceptable levels of traffic into the neighborhood south of the park. It will also increase traffic IN THE PARK. The City Charter requires that every city agency implement policies that make transit and walking an attractive alternate to driving. The Concourse Authority is ignoring the City's Transit First policy by promoting this plan.

Coalition activists are challenging the approval process on the grounds that further environmental analysis is needed; the presenters of the plan did not adhere to Sunshine Ordinance regulations; and the process should not go forward without proper CEQA* review.

The CVIA board objects to widening MLK Drive and asks for an acceptable solution—one that is sensitive to the park, safe for pedestrians, bicyclists and Muni, and does not adversely affect the traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods. —Joan Downey

Neighbors Appeal Development of Sylvan Lots

Five properties located below and between 90 and 112 Woodland Ave. and 1185 and 1195 Stanyan St. have been purchased by T&T Investments, a property developer. In required neighborhood meetings, T&T has expressed intentions to construct up to seven single-family homes on the five properties, which currently have only one home on them. In order to preserve the open space, Al and Toby Pelavin, 90 Woodland, attempted to negotiate purchase of the three properties closest to them but were not successful.



Proposal to turn a green space between Stanyan (above) and Woodland into five homesites will impact neighbors accustomed to privacy.

Deanna Jones, representing concerned Stanyan Street neighbors, and Molley Lowry, speaking for the Woodland Avenue Association, have filed an appeal with the Board of Supervisors identifying the project as a serial development requiring an Environmental Impact Review. The Pelavins have filed a similar request. There will be scheduled neighborhood meetings and requests for funds.

Hired to assist in complying with legal procedures are Attorney Tim Tosta and consultant Lu Blazej (former City Planning Director), but it will be the concerted energy and creative input of action of the neighbors that will save the natural surroundings that residents value. Anyone interested in assisting this effort to preserve open space in our district should contact Deanna Jones at 566-8470 or Molley Lowry at 665-4304.

—Molley Lowry

Haight Author Tackles Philosophy from Gay Perspective

Although he has graciously permitted us to reprint his opinion pieces in the CVIA News, it has just come to our attention that Haight activist and writer Arthur Evans is the author of several books,



Scholarly writer Arthur Evans is also a keen observer of the city's political scene. (Photo by Rink © 1997)

most recent of which is a gay-positive book on philosophy, entitled *Critique of Patriarchal Reason*.

Publication of the book was aided by an award of \$6,941 from the S.F. Art Commission, part of its program grants to individual artists and writers. The book includes original artwork by San Francisco artist Frank Pietronigro.

“I worked on the book for nine years,” says Evans. “It takes the spirit of the Stonewall era of gay liberation, which I personally experienced it, and applies it to the great philosophical questions. Among other things, the book provides an eye-opening account of the gay philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein.”

Evans said that the S.F. Art Commission deserves credit for supporting art that speaks directly to the lesbian and gay community. “Even today,” he added, “this type of support is a rarity in America.”

Evans has been a San Franciscan for more than twenty years and a gay activist for nearly thirty. He did graduate work in philosophy at Columbia University in New York and has published two previous books on gay history and culture.

Want to Know What's Going On in District 5?

There are over 700 persons and organizations on the District E-Mail Board operated by the Panhandle Neighborhood Organization/ Stanyan-Fulton (PROSF). The list is remarkably deep in community stakeholders of all stripes. Things that happen there happen in front of (for all intents and purposes) the press, service providers, law enforcement, many city departments and the offices of both Mayor and the supervisors.

It is part of PROSF's mission to promote a substantive discussion of the issues and advance the agendas of our sister organizations unselfishly in word and deed.

PROSF also seeks to ensure both our elected and appointed officials honor their formally negotiated commitments to the community and stop passing the buck from one administration or official to the next.

—Christian Holm

Ed. note: Many CVIA members are now on the mailing list and find a good way to stay current. It's free and PROSF does not pass on names to other organizations. For information about getting on the list, send a mail request to: home@prosf.org or call 387-7405. The Panhandle Residents Organization/Stanyan-Fulton can be reached at 346-1448.

Now You Can Do Something About It

There are four Parking Control Officers whose duty is to find those scofflaws who use someone else's disabled placard. Call 554-9818 if you want to make a report.

Hot Prowler Caught

We recently caught a burglar who had committed a series of Hot Prowls (nighttime burglaries) in the district. At a house on Levant St. the victim discovered the suspect standing in her sunroom, which has access to the backyard. The victim fled up the stairs. The suspect came through an open door and followed her up the stairs. The victim ran into a roommate's bedroom and slammed the door. The suspect continued through the house taking the victim's purse as he fled out the front door.

Park Station Officer Mark Moreno responded and notified Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) for evidence gathering. Officer O'Connor found a print and ran it through the computer which indicated that the suspect was a sex registrant. O'Connor became concerned for the safety of possible victims and notified our Sex Registrant unit.

Inspectors Serna and Zerga, when told about the situation, on their own initiative left their families to begin the investigation. They searched for the suspect and found that he had left his last registered address. They contacted his parole agent for additional information and to put a "parole hold" on the suspect if he was arrested. They put together a photo spread with the suspect and interviewed the victim, who positively identified the suspect.

They then put out a teletype advising officers that the suspect was wanted and also personally notified Park Station's officers. On Tuesday, Jan. 18 around noon our Officers Perez, Pagtanac, and Barcena, of our Fugitive Recovery Unit, arrested the suspect on the 1800 block of Eddy. Inspectors Serna and Zerga interviewed the suspect, who was wearing the same jacket he wore during the burglary. The suspect confessed. We hope he has an extended stay in prison.

—Captain John Ehrlich, Park District Station

Excerpts from Captain Ehrlich's Weekly Crime Report

Burglary Hot Prowl and Parole Violation Arrest—Monday, 01-17-05, 1:56 a.m., 1113 Cole Street. Officers had gone to this address on a follow-up investigation for a series of hot prowler burglaries in the Cole Valley area which they felt were attributed to a known burglar who lives at this address and was currently wanted for an outstanding parole violation warrant. After the plainclothes officers knocked and announced their presence, they observed through a window the suspect they sought crawling to the back of this flat and proceeding to flee. The officers called for assistance, and several officers responded to seal off the area of the 1100 block of Cole Street. Several neighbors reported a black male wearing no pants running through their backyards. Following a trail of mud and damaged fences, the searching officers tracked our desperado to an unlocked basement, which the suspect entered to hide from the pursuing officers. The wanted parolee was additionally charged for entering an occupied building to escape and delaying arrest.

Fraudulent Game/Trick—Tuesday, 01-18-05, 8:20 a.m., 1508 Waller Street. A resident of the Park District has been plagued the last two months by phone calls from an unknown male caller who identified himself as an FBI agent and from Homeland Security demanding \$2,000.00 to prove she plans to pay her taxes. Another caller claimed she won a large amount of money, and that to get this money she needed to deposit money into a B of A account. Our fraud detail has initiated an investigation. These con-artists have taken many elderly residents of our fair city to the cleaners, and we are hopeful we can stop this before another is financially injured.

Felony Malicious Mischief, Trespassing, and Battery Arrest. Tuesday, 01-18-05, 2:55 p.m., 1452 Haight Street. An angry, inebriated homeless man entered the Piedmont Boutique and, because he was blocking the front entrance, was asked to leave. The man

responded in a very belligerent and violent manner, striking the store manager and purposely knocking over a security sensor, causing approximately \$2,000.00 in damage to this device. The manager called the police and the miscreant fled. Officer Ann Bower located the suspect lurking in a doorway a block-and-a-half away and quickly swept him away to City Prison singing the blues out of tune.

Selling Narcotics in Golden Gate Park. Wednesday, 01/18/05, 2:16 p.m., Alvord Lake Golden Gate Park. An indignant woman carrying a baby flagged down our plainclothes Officers Matthew Gardner and Robert Duffield to complain about a bearded man selling drugs in this area. Our mighty duo set up to observe the drug activity and quickly located the bearded man described by the irate mother as the person selling drugs. The officers observed this man stopping all those walking by him attempting to engage them in conversation. At one point a young man stopped and then followed the dealer into the tunnel area where they would be less visible. Our officers, with the valuable assistance of our beat Officer Dante Giovannelli, followed the subjects into the tunnel area to discover a narcotics transaction about to go down. The officers detained the men, recovered several bags of marijuana packaged for sale and arrested the bearded dealer. The young man told our officers he had come to the park to buy marijuana and was about to purchase it from the dealer



The park entrance at Stanyan and Haight continues to be a problem.

when the officers arrived. As the narcotics transaction had not occurred the young man was released and the bearded dealer was booked for the possession of marijuana for sale leaving one mother visiting our wonderful Golden Gate Park very happy.

Burglary, Petty Theft With a Prior, Probation Violation. Friday, 01-21-05, 1:30 a.m., Cala Foods, Haight and Stanyan streets. The suspect entered the store, went straight back to the candy aisle and began filling his pockets with items. He continued to place items in his jacket and pockets as he moved through the store. When he attempted to exit the store, he was detained by security. The police arrived and ascertained that the subject was on felony probation and took him into custody without incident. Further investigation at Park Station revealed that he had eleven prior theft-related offenses and has a first degree burglary conviction. Suspect was booked for Burglary, Petty Theft With A Prior and Probation Violation.

Marijuana, Possession/Sale, Carrying a Concealed Weapon—Friday, 01-21-05, 10:00 a.m., Haight and Cole Streets. Two individuals were stopped after a citizen called dispatch and described them and their illegal activities. After a weapons search revealed an illegal knife, a search for further contraband revealed three bags of marijuana. Suspect booked as per above.

Burglary, Hot Prowl—Friday, 01-21-05, 1:00 a.m., 200 block of Frederick: Victim and roommates were asleep, and upon awakening found numerous articles of value missing. Victims found the front door and back door of the residence unlocked. CSI to respond for fingerprints.

Ed. note: To receive a copy of Capt. Ehrlich's online newsletter and crime log make a request at johnehrlich@sbglobal.net.

Long Range Plans for UCSF

Significant demolitions and removal of inpatient services from our local Parnassus campus are called for in the UCSF Long Range Development Plan, expected to be reviewed and approved by University Regents in March. Gone before 2013 will be children's and women's specialty inpatient care services, and, before 2030, three major buildings on the uphill side of Parnassus St. will be demolished.

Yet, the neighborhood will probably notice little change. The buildings to be demolished will be replaced. The new buildings will be somewhat smaller in size, as the campus is now about 68,000 square feet over the upper limit for campus size set in a 1976 agreement with neighbors. Most adult inpatient and outpatient services will remain, including cardiovascular, neurosciences, and organ



Because of State seismic requirements UCSF will replace three major buildings on its Parnassus campus. (South view above.)

transplant. A full emergency department will still be available to the public. The academic programs of Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy and the Graduate Division will remain at the Parnassus campus, housed in new and upgraded facilities. The 16,000 person average daily population of the Parnassus campus is not expected to significantly increase or decrease.

Delivery of children's and women's specialty inpatient health care will be moved to Mission Bay. The University is trying to acquire a new site for these services, 14 additional acres on the south side of 16th St. adjacent to the existing 43 acre UCSF Mission Bay campus. Catellus, the overall Mission Bay developer, has signed on for over 9 acres, and negotiations are proceeding for the remainder of the parcel needed. Joined by 53 cancer beds that must be moved from the Mt. Zion campus, the children's and women's beds will be housed in three contiguous small hospitals on the new site. The three hospitals will have about 210 beds total and will maintain distinct identities through architectural design and separate names.

Originally, Mission Bay was to be exclusively a research campus, with no patient care there at all. There are a number of reasons why this plan has changed. A minor one is that at Mission Bay emergency patients can be delivered by helicopter. A helipad is not feasible at Parnassus because of topography and the dense residential setting of the campus.

More important reasons include the fact that UCSF is under the gun of a state seismic safety law that mandates 53 cancer beds must be removed from their current building at Mt. Zion by 2013. There is no room to put these beds in another building at Mt. Zion

or at the Parnassus campus, so to Mission Bay they must go to women's and children's services. The women's and children's services are currently "buried" in three floors of the massive, high 1 Moffitt/Long hospital at Parnassus. Separating them out into smaller structures will give them greater visibility for potential philanthropic donors: children and cancer are perennial donor favorites. Housing the three contiguously makes sense because many children are treated for cancer, and prenatal and neonatal care for women are tied in with children's care. Finally, locating medical research close proximity to some inpatient beneficiaries of that research creates synergy and inspiration for the researchers.

State hospital seismic safety law will also drive the scheduled building destruction at the Parnassus campus. Probably the first to go will be the gracious, 1917 Beaux Arts pile of UC Hall, located on Parnassus St. just west of the main hospital buildings. Used for research, office space and some outpatient services, UC Hall, adorned with delicate terra cotta ornamentation, has been recommended for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources, but the seismic performance of the building is expected to be so poor that the goal is to clear it out as soon as possible, before the Big One. So depression-era murals painted by a student of Diego Rivera and depicting the history of medicine will be saved from an auditorium and reinstalled elsewhere.

The next to go, before the 2030 legal deadline, will be Moffitt, the 1955 high-rise hospital building that fronts on Parnassus St. Located behind and joined to Moffitt, was built in 1982 and will stay, but without Moffitt it will be only half a hospital. Consequently the plan calls for the destruction of the Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute building on the east side of the hospital high-rises. Langley, an intriguing Art Deco and Moderne style 1941 building, is not considered architecturally significant because of alterations over the years. Langley would be replaced by a new "hospital pavilion" of 130 beds which, with Long, would then reconstitute a whole hospital.

The long-term goal, as determined by market research, is for UCSF to end up with about 650 inpatient beds total, 210 at Mission Bay and about 440 at Parnassus, down from the 526 beds at Parnassus now. Mt. Zion campus will focus exclusively on outpatient care.

—Douglas H

Bad News for Chain Stores

On December 6, 2004, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee unanimously passed, with recommendation, an ordinance amending the Formula Business Legislation that requires Formula Businesses (stores with over 11 venues) to have a Conditional Use Hearing as part of the process of obtaining a permit order to locate in the Haight Commercial District. This legislation will now go to the full Board of Supervisors. Since it is strongly recommended by both the Planning Commission and the Land Use Committee, it is expected to pass at the full Board.

This legislation means formula-type businesses (i.e. Starbucks, Footlocker, Baskin & Robbins) that wish to locate in the Haight will now have a Conditional Use Hearing before permit approval.

—Flip Sarrow, President Haight Ashbury Merchants Association

Cviasf@aol.com

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

Why Won't They Take the Money?

Incidental to efforts to control amplified sounds from Sharon Meadow, I discovered that the Recreation and Park Department (RPD) has failed to collect millions of dollars of fees from Sharon Meadow facility use permits (rental of city property). RPD responded to my "Demand Letter" with a form for collecting damages from the city. In effect, they said, "so sue me," without addressing the problem or making any offer to start collecting the full fees, collect unpaid fees and deny permits to applicants with unpaid fees.

Not being able to spend my personal funds suing the city, I have continued to use the only tool I have that seems to work, the Sunshine Ordinance. Aided by Christian Holmer, I asked for the payments received and gross ticket sales for two events (A la Carte and Reggae) and one promoter (Events West) from the years 2000 to 2004. The response was swift by city standards, suggesting that RPD was finally taking this more seriously or maybe they are only taking the Sunshine Ordinance seriously.

The response made no mention of the Year 2000, and for Year 2001 RPD answered with a new Sunshine Ordinance cliché: "... information has not been recovered within the time limit of the Sunshine Ordinance." The time limit is ten (10) days and there is no statement as to when, or if, the information would ever be recovered. This phrase is a euphemism for a number of more direct or honest statements RPD could have made, such as: "This information doesn't exist OR the information is somewhere but we can't find it OR we had it and destroyed it OR we don't



Rec. and Park often fails to collect fees from producers of large events.

want to give it to you so we are saying we can't recover it within the ten day limit."

This is what I learned, which is damning to say the least:

1. There is **no** data on paid attendance for any event, even though it is required in the permit and necessary to determine the correct fee.
2. RPD has never collected the full fee for any of these events.
3. The minimum fee required before the permit is issued was not received until just before the next year's event. This made it appear as if the permittee was paying the minimum fee for the current year as required when, in fact, it was partial payment a year late for the previous year. I have the dated receipts and checks.
4. No fees were collected (\$0.00) for the 2003 A la Carte in the Park event.
5. Items 1-4 above did not cause RPD to deny a permit to the delinquent permittee nor to take the delinquency to the City Attorney or the Rec. and Park Commission for their review. There is the worse possibility that the City Attorney and the Commission did review it and said, "Let it go."
6. On September 30, 2004, RPD allowed the permittee to put up fencing around Sharon Meadow for Reggae even though a valid permit had not been issued.
7. As of 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 5, 2004, the permittee has still not provided a certified accounting of gross ticket receipts for the 2003 Reggae event and, if that is not forthcoming by the close of business on January 5, a \$5000 performance bond cashier's check will be deposited by RPD.

What am I going to do about this? I'll keep asking questions until I get a complete and unambiguous response. I have more than enough information to wonder why no one in the city government, especially the Mayor's Office, the City Attorney's Office, the Office of the City Controller and the Board of Supervisors has taken any

action, especially during a time of budget shortfalls? The money is there, I'm pointing at it, and no one in the city Government is willing to pick it up. WHY?

—Martin MacIntyre

Sergeant Porto Retires

For over four hours well-wishers flocked to Park Station's community room to honor Sergeant Mark Porto's 32 year career with the SFPD, 16 years of which were spent at Park Station. Officer Dante Giovannelli, assisted by Officer Ken Marusco, barbecued beef and chicken while a multitude of salads and desserts were donated by the



CVIA president Douglas Hall presented a commemorative plaque to Sergeant Mark Porto at his retirement party at Park Station on Jan. 12.

Sergeant's many friends in the neighborhood. With both laughter and tears, speeches were delivered and tributes presented to this popular officer who served as community liaison under seven Park Station captains, ending with the current Captain John Ehrlich, who graciously hosted the event on January 12.

Among those who dropped by to pay their respects were Chief Heather Fong, Commander Dave Shinn and POA President Gary Delagnes who presented a crystal trophy on behalf of the Police Officers Association. The celebration was thoroughly enjoyed by three generations of the Porto family who met hundreds of Mark's friends—many officers who had worked alongside him over the years.

CVIA's president Douglas Hall presented Porto with a commemorative plaque citing his dedication to the residents of the Cole Valley-Haight Ashbury neighborhood. Afterward, the party moved to the Kezar Club for more serious celebrating. It was a day of mixed feelings for Sergeant Porto and the community. We wish him well as he moves on to do the things he's been putting off—fishing and hiking prominent among them, and welcome Sgt. Mike Niland who will be taking his place.

—Karen Crommie



Captain John Ehrlich holds community meetings every month. He and his staff review criminal activity, park events, and the general safety concerns of residents. For details call Sgt. Mike Niland at 242-3032.

February 17, March 31, April 28
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Park Police Station
1899 Waller St. at Stanyan

CVIA Board Actions

The following is a summary of what took place at the CVIA Board of Directors 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. Leave a message at cviasf@aol.com or call 431-1414 to learn the location.

November

- 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. Welcomed guest Leah Scholer.
- Reviewed the second Heart of Cole street fair noting there were fewer people in attendance than last year. The children's activity structure was a success as was the face painting. The fair's poster was exceptionally well designed, as were the t-shirts. Recommendations for next year were to do more advertising, involve more merchants, make the music more integral to the other fair activities, and offer a wider variety of food. All were in favor of CVIA producing for sale something related to existing historical photos of Cole Valley (postcards, notes, calendar).
- Reviewed plans for a new construction at 17th and Clayton.
- Approved a motion to require board approval before a person identifies him/herself as a CVIA member when publicly endorsing a candidate.
- Discussed rebuilding of 215-17 Cole St. (severely damaged in a fire two years ago). Decided not to support owner in his quest for a code variance.
- Discussed traffic circulation problems on Cole Street, particularly how double-parking by delivery trucks and customers impedes the 37 and 43 bus lines and general traffic flow. Decided to request a traffic study by DPT.
- Decided on issuing a commendation for Sgt. Mark Porto on his upcoming retirement from SFPD.

(There was no business meeting in December)

January

- 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.
- Welcomed guests, the new president of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC) Lara Sallee and past president Tes Wellborn. Discussed ways HANC and CVIA can work together on common goals—specifically: protecting Martin Luther King Drive from expansion; opposing the proposed closing of Kezar Stadium on Sundays; supporting enforcement of laws prohibiting parking on sidewalks; supporting the refurbishing and reopening of all the existing public toilets run by Rec and Park; and opposing the closure of the Clayton St. (Station F) Post Office
- Discussed topics of importance for future Park Police community meetings. Karen Crommie will take ideas to upcoming organizing meeting chaired by PCR director Karen Fishkin.
- Discussed the upcoming newsletter and areas needed to be covered.

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

Why Graffiti Has Gotten Worse

It was supposed to get better, but, like many pieces of well-tended legislation, there have been unintended consequences.

In an attempt to reduce the time and materials spent by the Department of Public Works in removing graffiti (from July to January there were 3,200 calls in District 5), the supervisors passed a law making the owners responsible for removing defacement from their buildings. In the public sector, responsibility for removing graffiti from poles, mailboxes and the various sidewalk utility boxes was passed on to the governmental department who owned it. No more Mr. N. Guy, said DPW. The law had "good government" all over it.

Trouble occurred when building owners were given 30 days to remedy the graffiti, and that kicks in after a notice has been issued which itself comes only after some citizen takes it upon him or her



DPW no longer removes graffiti from private buildings but rather notifies the owner who has 30 days to do it himself.

self to report it. Way too long a time. Public utilities have a shorter leash. They're required to respond to complaints with a "plan of elimination" within 48 hours.

The process works like this: the citizen calls 28-CLEAN and a notice is sent to the owner or fielded to the appropriate city agency. The graffiti hot line becomes a central clearing house for all graffiti in the city.

DPW's Assistant Deputy Chief Mohammed Nuru speaking at a recent 5Together meeting at Northern Police Station said tagging is working in San Francisco almost always reside outside of the city. They tend to work in groups and "bomb" one neighborhood at a time. Only 10 percent of tagging is gang-related, done mostly by males over 21 years old who are committed to what they consider a serious and dangerous art form: part sport, part self-expression.

To address the obvious problem this new policy has created, DPW has established a new volunteer program called Graffiti Watch modeled on a successful program in San Jose. Unlike a city department, this volunteer group, trained by DPW's graffiti crew and the SFPD, will remove graffiti on private buildings. For more information on reporting graffiti or volunteering to work on a cleaning crew, call 282-5326 or go to 28clean@sfdpw.org.

—Karen Crommie

Bring Your Garden Gloves

Volunteer gardening in Buena Vista Park will resume its regular "First Saturday" schedule in February. The work group is sponsored by the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association (BVNA) and Friends of Buena Vista Park (FoBVP) in cooperation with the SF Recreation and Park Dept. For more information contact Richard Magary at 431-2359 or go to BVNA@ix.netcom.com.

Goodbye to Coffee, Tea & Spice

Coffee, Tea and Spice, an institution on Haight Street for more than 33 years, closed its doors January 29. Wishing to retire, current owner K.C. Evans had been looking for a buyer for the popular store and coffee roasting shop for the past several months but took it off the market when his wife Gena couldn't find a suitable location for her embroidery and monogramming business, Yolo Designs, which



After 14 years in the coffee business, K.C. Evans is retiring.

she had been operating in the rear of the store. "She's a lot younger than me and not ready to retire," said Evans as he made one of his final espresso drinks for a neighborhood store employee.

Evans, an active golfer and former Pan Am Airlines captain, acquired Coffee, Tea & Spice 14 years ago from Phyllis and Chris Baldenhoffer and had expanded the business considerably. Now Evans has reached retirement age and wants to enjoy life a bit more.

So K.C. will go and Gina will stay. Yolo Designs will expand to fill the entire space and offer a variety of products and services from quilt finishing to handmade jewelry and organic beauty products. I wouldn't be surprised if a faint aroma of coffee lingers.

—David Crommie

No-show Golden Gate Park Gardeners Spur Hearing

Supervisor Bevan Dufty held a hearing on Recreations and Parks Department (RPD) procedures after a Channel 7 report showed city gardeners at Buena Vista Park and Dolores Park slacking off on taxpayer time and stealing plants. To correct this accountability problem, RPD Acting General Manager Yomi Agunbiade says that supervisors will visit sites on a regular basis, employees will sign in and out at their work location, and yearly performance evaluations and goal setting for each employee will be implemented. Some employees have only had two evaluations in the past 16 years, Supervisor Dufty reported.



The Controllers Office is also working with RPD to help them comply with Proposition C (passed by the voters in November 2003), which requires RPD to establish standards for park maintenance and to publish their schedules. As a start, RPD posted park mowing schedules, employee staffing by facility, and the schedule of key park maintenance activities by property type. See <http://parks.sfgov.org> and look under the Proposition C section.

—Joan Downey

The Note Left on the Desk

At a party marking the departure of Supervisor Matt Gonzalez and the election of Ross Mirkarimi, the former took the opportunity to speak his mind regarding the pitfalls of being a new supervisor. Speaking at a no-host reception at the Amphora Wine Bar sponsored by 5Together, Gonzalez laid out some pragmatic rules of ethical conduct that he hoped Mirkarimi would not have to learn the hard way. Although each was embellished with anecdotes, sometimes accusatory, other times humorous, always completely candid, his advice focused on the following:

- Don't let people talk you into working on bills that you're really not interested in. Pick your legislation according to your own concerns and what you think is best for the city.
- Be willing to let legislation go to some other supervisor if he/she shows a particular interest and concern for the issue. There are always plenty of other problems that need addressing. Let it go and then make it an opportunity to pick up something else you are interested in.
- Don't trade votes. Even if you know a measure will fail: vote your conscience.
- Don't deprecate your colleagues no matter how angry you are at the time. It will take too long to repair the residual bad feelings and interfere with the task at hand.



At a party honoring the outgoing and incoming District 5 supervisors, Matt Gonzalez gives candid advice to Ross Mirkarimi.

- You will not be able to serve all the members of your district but try to unite them on "good government" issues. (At this point he glanced at a group from CVIA.)

Mirkarimi listened intently for the 20 minutes Gonzalez spoke and afterward thanked him with an attitude of a graduate receiving his diploma. But there's no reason to think the feeling expressed was anything other than sincere. He's had a long association with Gonzalez, as former campaign manager and fellow Green Party member, and clearly admires him as a person and as a legislator.

—Karen Crommie



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.

Music Concourse a Landmark?

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board heard the landmarking proposal from the neighborhood group SPEAK on January 5. They also heard support for the landmarking from Friends of the Music Concourse, including representatives from the Friends of the Urban Forest, the San Francisco Tree Council, and other expert witnesses. The Board agreed that the Music Concourse should be landmarked and discussed the conditions for preservation of the historic trees.

As part of landmarking it is important to list those future changes that would require a Certificate of Appropriateness. If a Certificate of Appropriateness is required for an action, such as cutting down a



—Photo by Chris Duderstadt

tree, then this gives the Board the opportunity to review that action in light of their expertise in historic preservation. There is also the opportunity for additional public input and appeal.

The Friends of the Music Concourse requested that Certificates be required for actions affecting the historic trees, to assure that these trees will be protected in the long run.

After discussion, the Board suggested that Friends of the Music Concourse, the Department of Recreation and Park, and the landmark staff meet to review the requirements for a Certificate of Appropriateness. We will be doing this within the next few weeks and will be presenting our recommendations at the next Board meeting on February 16th.

Meanwhile, if you have not already written a letter of support, or if you are interested in testifying in support of the historic trees on February 16th, please contact us!

—Kathy Howard and Margaret Mori

Ed. note: CVIA has submitted a letter of support.

Earthquake, Terrorists, Tsunami Will you know what to do?

The Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training provided free by the San Francisco Fire Department will be held this year at St. Mary's Hospital beginning February 16 on Wednesdays 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Classes are scheduled for February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 in Morrissey Hall at 2250 Hayes at Stanyan. To enroll call 970-2024.

Postscripts

Flip Sarrow, president of the **Haight Ashbury Merchants Association**, tells us that the long awaited **JCDecaux** self-cleaning 1 let destined for Masonic near Haight is undergoing further delay. A fight between DPW and PG&E regarding all outdoor public installations has slowed progress. In the meantime, **Daniel Homs** of the **Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services**, in an effort to appease the tenants of the apartment house next to the designated installation site, has asked DPW to consider placing it on a median in the middle of Masonic. This evoked a loud scream from the who had been through many years of red tape to get the original site permitted. A compromise is now being sought by **Supervisor Mirkarimi** who will try to persuade DPW to move the approval a little closer to Haight Street and a little further away from residential entrance.

* * *

Thanks to **Sue Cauthen**, **Peter Warfield**, **Mary Helen Briscoe**, **Rachel Ellis** and many others in the neighborhood who waged a vigorous campaign, the **SF Public Library Commission** has thought the library's plans to eliminate the morning hours from Park Branch's Saturday schedule. The beloved neighborhood library on Page between Cole and Shrader will remain open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Whew.

* * *

Love that **ChronicleWatch!** How else would we know that the speed limit signs were replaced on Twin Peaks due to the vigilance of CVIA members **Rita and Robert Read** who told the Chronicle "The signs that were once on the road around Twin Peaks have been removed. Now cars and motorcycles speed through this area with apparent freedom." As a result the Dept. of Parking and Traffic replaced 17 speed limit and curve signs which may have been removed by vandals. While they were at it, DPT also replaced four "do not enter," four "one way" and four "49-mile scenic drive" signs that were also missing. Our thanks to the Reads.

* * *

Arthur Evans admits being surprised by how poorly **Rob Haaland** did in the District 5 election, coming in a distant second after winner **Ross Mirkarimi**. Says Arthur, "Mirkarimi ended with just under 51% (13,152 votes). Haaland got just under 28% (7,243 votes). That's a 23% spread! Haaland went into the race with a powerhouse of big-name endorsers, lots of dollars, and near unanimous backing from the city's gay political clubs and newspapers. To many, it seemed the race was his to lose. However, District 5 voters had more practical concerns on their minds: dirty streets, crime, graffiti, deteriorating parks, potholes, parking, etc." You got it right, Arthur.

* * *

Controller Ed Harrington tells us that San Francisco's **Whistleblower Complaints Program** is tracking complaints about the quality and delivery of government services, wasteful and inefficient city government practices, misuse of government funds, and improper activities by city government officials, employees and contractors. (Oh, the mind spins.) They will take complaints by telephone and from their web site. The whistleblower complaints hotline number is (415) 554-CITY or go to www.sfgov.org/site/whistleblower_index.asp. And be sure to let us know what happens.

* * *

Former District 5 Supervisor **Matt Gonzalez** gave, as his reason for not running for reelection, a desire to go into "private practice." Some thought it was a euphemism for building a political organization to support his run for a higher office, but, surprise, surprise,

is now settling in at 332 Pine Street—2,500 square feet of upscale space for himself and a few colleagues in a new law firm called **Gonzalez and Leigh**.

Condolences go to Cole Valley’s Wong family whose matriarch, **Jane Ging Soe Wong**, passed away last month. Wife of the well-loved **Walter Wong** and co-owner of the **Ashbury Market** (corner of Frederick and Ashbury) from 1929 to 1999, she leaves a legacy of love for fine food with her children: Lawrence, Wilfred, Richard, Arnold and Carole. Most notable being Arnold, who is proprietor of **Eos** restaurant (Carl at Cole), and Wilfred, the much-quoted wine buyer for Beverages and More.

—Karen Crommie

Letter to CVIA

Dear CVIA:

Let’s build our city square.

I have been a resident of Cole Valley for 4 years now, and have loved it since the day my wife and I discovered it by accident. Only one thing is missing to the old world village feel of our Valley: a city square, where kids can run in the open without having to dodge traffic; where a few artists and farmers can sell their goods; where a band can play a song or two; where locals can have a nice meal outdoors without breathing diesel fumes (okay, weather permitting).

But let’s not destroy the Valley by turning it into a “destination,” like Belden Lane for example. That downtown spot is the only example of pedestrian street in San Francisco I know of. And I don’t think I’d like to live there, with it’s endless row of eateries and aggressive restaurant menu peddlers. But you get the idea; somewhere in the middle, I see a happy place.

Here’s what I would like to propose: how about closing Cole between Carl and Parnassus every Sunday? I am interested in your opinions and advice. Please contact me at Loic_SF@yahoo.com

Loic Nicolas

Help

- Emergency..... 911**
- Disturbance553-0123**
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks553-1200**
- Abandoned Vehicles781-5865**
- Health Department255-3610**
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.) 695-2017**
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal28-CLEAN
282-5326**
- Street Lighting554-0730**
- Mayor Gavin Newsom.....554-6141**
City Hall - Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
S.F., CA 94102
- Chief of Police Heather Fong.....553-1551**
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F. CA 94103
- District Attorney Kamala Harris553-1741**
Hall of Justice - 850 Bryant St.
S.F. CA 94103
- Captain John Ehrlich242-3000**
Park District Police Station
1899 Waller St.
S.F., CA 94117

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

City Hall - Room 244

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CVIANEWS is published quarterly as a forum for residents of the greater Haight Ashbury neighborhood. The views expressed reflect those of the writers. Contributions for the Spring edition should be sent before April 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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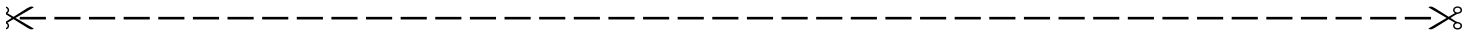
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Community RelationsNancy Corsaut
Special ProjectsJoan Downey

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

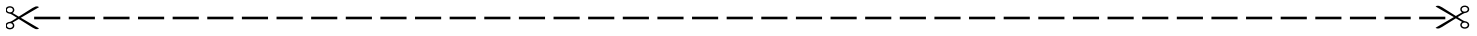
NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

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
P.O. Box 170611
San Francisco, CA 94117

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