

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XVII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

May 2004

## Martin MacIntyre—Reluctant Hero

Martin MacIntyre is a soft-spoken man who has, nevertheless, given a very large voice to outraged neighbors and has succeeded in exacting a major change of policy toward gonzo promoters who



*Under the leadership of Martin MacIntyre, a group of stalwart Haight residents have succeeded in establishing new enforcement procedures governing amplified sound at events held in Sharon Meadow.*

blast music and announcements from the stages of Sharon Meadow. The neighbors are fuming because of the invasion of their space and, just as much, by Rec and Park's repeated failure to take responsibility for those with whom they enter into contracts.

After six years of complaining, MacIntyre's group has persuaded Rec and Park's commissioners (notably Jim Lazarus and

*Continued on page 2, column 2*

## The Saga of the Circles is Over

*It took over a year for the Department of Parking and Traffic to get the message, but they finally heard the neighbors: No circles on Page and Waller streets. A plebiscite of residents near the target intersections revealed that most thought placement of traffic circles in tiny streets was a bad idea.*

Initially, eleven sites were targeted for permanent circles along Page and Waller streets—nine in the Upper Haight and two in the Lower Haight. Then the promises started flowing. The circles would be landscaped, and enhance the values of local properties. Cars would be polluting less. Traffic would be calmer. And, bicyclists would not have to stop at each stop sign along the route.

But then questions about the project began to grow in the public mind. DPT supplied the answers. Who would maintain the landscaping in the circles? *A volunteer neighbor.* What was the average speed of Page St. traffic? *In most places, less than the posted speed limit.* How would claims of a 90% improvement in accident reduc-



*After months of "testing," DPT finally agreed that the trial traffic circles on Page and Waller streets were a failure.*

tion be achieved on a street that hasn't seen an accident in years? *It will be safer.* And the big concerns: will fire trucks and other emergency vehicles be slowed in their response to calls on Page St.? *If the SF Fire Department says "no" to the circles, the project will stop.* Lastly, where will the money come from to pay for this project?



### A Call for Hidden Gardens

In preparation for a photo exhibit for the 2nd Cole Valley Fair, Jessica Justino is looking for hidden gardens in our neighborhood. She will arrange for a photograph to be taken—or you can supply your own—of your garden and the house it is behind.

And if your house has an interesting history that you want to share, Jessica is collecting that information, too (with or without a photo).

Share your garden or house's history - call Jessica at 566-1555.

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*A grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management Board of \$150,000. No public money will be used on these circles.*

In subsequent meetings other discussions about a test period and a voting methodology were described. It all seemed not very well thought out, with more unanswered questions than comprehensive answers. The most obvious point was that DPT and the SF Bicycle Coalition seemed to be in cahoots to push this project so bicyclists wouldn't have to obey the California Vehicle Code and come to a complete stop at intersections with stop signs.

The trial circles went in, and then were not removed after 30 days of "testing." The test circles became collection points for trash, furniture and real-estate signs for the more than eight months they were in place. More importantly, Haight residents complained of a



*At a community meeting on March 18 led by DPT's Nick Carr and Bridget Smith, over 80 neighbors gave a "thumbs down" to the project.*

severe decrease in pedestrian safety at the circles as cars felt they had no obligation to stop or show due regard for those on foot. Drivers complained of near-misses and some accidents. Everyone complained about trucks and even cars short-cutting the circles on a left turn. The disabled users of Page St. were most vulnerable as visibility at the intersections combined with even 15 m.p.h. traffic was downright dangerous. In response to neighborhood insistence, the SF Fire Department made tests with several pieces of equipment at least twice to show that *any* size circles on Page St. posed severe problems to response times. In short, there did not seem to be any gain toward the stated objectives of the project. Even bicyclists complained that the test intersections had in fact become greater hazards.

Before it was over, DPT had been caught in a number of misrepresentations and falsehoods in their effort to continue the project. They even said that after the grant money ran out, they would use funds from the general fund (generated by sales taxes) to pay for the project. Supervisor Gonzalez, who favored the circles, tried to negotiate the public safety away in favor of the bicyclists. Local residents were not willing to yield on compromises on fire department response times. More details about this whole sordid story can be found on the web at [www.dangeronpage.com](http://www.dangeronpage.com).

In March the neighborhood was finally given a chance to vote on the merits of the traffic circle project. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, the results of the voting were announced. **Not one circle was approved at any of the eleven intersections.** The people won. That victory came as the result of a lot of effort by a great many people. While this all should have taken just a few months to resolve, the will of the majority of residents along Page and Waller streets showed that common sense is still common. Thankfully.

—Ted Loewenberg

*Martin MacIntyre—Continued from Page 1*

Rebecca Prozan) to get serious with the rights, not only of the adjoining neighborhoods, but of visitors to Golden Gate Park seeking the sylvan quietude promised by park founders.

As months of negotiations proceeded, unexpected facts came to light. The city attorney stated that amplified sound was fully protected by the first amendment—unlike a citizens right to the enjoyment of his home; Rec and Park had in some cases not received a performance bond from producers and Rec and Park had been charging some promoters amounts way below the statutory fees. (*See article on pg. 8.*) Another discovery was that enforcement of Rec and Park contracts was not the responsibility of the SFPD but rather of the Park Rangers, non-sworn officers who work for Rec and Park and are charged with overseeing compliance with park policies.

Enter Marcus Santiago, the second reluctant hero. Once appealed to, Santiago, supervising Park Ranger revised the protocol for amplification enforcement and announced at a Rec and Park committee meeting that, essentially, the buck was stopping with him. He even provided a phone number to call with complaints during a concert: 753-7015.

Under the new rules the concert promoters will be required to meet with an independent compliance officer prior to an event to ensure the sound system is following amplification policy. Three Park Rangers will be assigned to each event, including one who will handle complaint calls. One Ranger will be assigned to monitor the soundboard and another to measure sound levels at the perimeter of the park. The offender will have three chances to turn down the sound, the second and third time resulting in citations. Most important, the citations will be officially entered in a complaint book and will influence the issuance of future contracts.

But Martin MacIntyre isn't happy. Given Rec and Park's history, he is doubtful that the stringent application process will be followed. Others are more optimistic. Tys Sniffen, District 5 candidate for supervisor, encourages everyone to be proactive, getting the event dates ahead of time and calling in as soon overflow sound is heard. (*See following article.*)

The primary offenders have been the Now and Zen concert and Reggae in the Park. But even the rally after the AIDS walk was a problem. Size of crowd or having a live band is not the key. The small group using the band shell for swing dancing can frequently be heard as far as UCSF Hospital. The problem is over-amplification: allowing sound to be louder than is necessary for an event to be enjoyed. MacIntyre and his group have pledged to keep meeting with Rec and Park until the problem is solved.

—Karen Crommie

## Park Events Worth Monitoring

Under the new park sound policy you should not be able to hear Sharon Meadow events in your home or garden. It is essential that neighbors who are disturbed by the sound immediately call Park Ranger Marcus Santiago at 753-7015 during the event. Let's all do our part in helping Rec and Park establish the appropriate levels for amplified sound. The schedule for this summer's major events is:

May 28, 29	Purina Dog Challenge
July 18	AIDS Walk
August 29	Comedy
September 4, 5, 6	A la Carte, A la Park
September 12	Opera in the Park
September 19	Now and Zen (Alice 97.3 FM)
(Not yet scheduled)	Reggae in the Park

**Ready or not, the Haight Street Fair is June 13.**



### **Buena Vista Park Jazz Returns May 14**

The third annual Music in Buena Vista Park event will be Friday, May 14 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the lawn at the summit of Buena Vista Park. Last year's hit band, Edna Love and her Motown/Blues Sound will be back by popular demand. Wine, other beverages and light snacks will be for sale at low cost, or bring food for a picnic with family, friends and neighbors. Sponsored by Friends of Recreation & Parks, together with the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association, Mt. Olympus Neighbors Association, Friends of Buena Vista Park and CVIA. For more information, go to [www.frp.org](http://www.frp.org) or call 750-5224.

## **Finally: A Study on Flooding**

Got Flooding? Do streets or basements flood in your neighborhood during rainstorms? CHNA (City Hub Neighborhood Alliance) is gathering reports from citizens about streets, intersections and buildings in San Francisco that suffer major flooding. This information will be turned into a flooding map and a listing of flood sites by neighborhood. This info will then be shared with Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams (NERT), city departments (Mayor's Office, Office of Emergency Services, Fire, Police, Public Works, Muni) and neighborhood associations.

If your neighborhood experiences flooding during severe storms, please tell us about it.

In making a flooding report please include the following information. **Where:** Give cross-streets and nearest street address if possible. Please include ZIP code and SF Supervisor district number. **When:** Date, times, how long flooding lasts. **How:** Does water rise out of storm drains or sewer manholes, run down street gutters and collect in intersections, etc. **How much:** How deep does the flooding get? How large an area is covered by water? **Effects:** Does flooding block intersections? Flood basements? Enter stores or other buildings through front entrance? Can emergency vehicles still get through flooded areas of streets? **Comments:** Anything else you'd like to add. Your participation is important. Contact City Hub Neighborhood Alliance at 255-2157 or [sfhubneighbors@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfhubneighbors@sbcglobal.net).

—Edward B. Goehring

## **Who Will Replace Gonzalez?**

The announcement that Matt Gonzalez would not seek reelection as supervisor in District 5 not only dampened the hopes of some for a "progressive" political leader, but opened a floodgate of people eager to replace him. As I write, 18 people have filed with the Department of Elections and another ten are testing the waters with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

Among those who have filed to date are: Lisa Feldstein (planning commissioner), Dan Kalb (environmental policy wonk), H. Brown (writer), Tys Sniffen (District 5 activist), Rob Anderson (free thinker), Jim Siegel (Haight merchant) and Robert Haaland (tenants rights advocate). Among those considering a run are Andrew Sullivan (Rescue Muni), Ross Mirkarimi (campaign advisor), Bill Barnes (Dem heavyweight) and Jim Hammer (Assistant District Attorney). The latter has recently resigned his post in the DA's office, which gives a distinct impression his candidacy is imminent.

As responsible and involved residents of the greater Haight Ashbury, CVIA members must not simply "right off" the District 5 seat as the permanent property of the so-called progressives. We will be searching for a moderate candidate who, unlike Gonzalez, knows the pinch of property taxes, is willing to support police action against "quality of life" crimes, supports the Mayor in his programs to stem homelessness, will advocate for fair geographical distribution of the city's social services and become involved in neighborhood issues such as chronic traffic congestion at Cole and Parnassus, the need for a second public toilet in the Haight street corridor, removal of derelict newsstands, cleaning heavily fliered public utility polls, enforcement of parking laws and leash laws, and protection of our current level of public transit. We will be doing our homework and will report back in the August issue.

—Karen Crommie

## **Chain Stores Put on Notice**

Supervisor Gonzalez's "formula business" legislation, rejected by the Planning Department, resurfaced at the Board of Supervisors on March 30 and was handily passed into law.

Cole Valley residents call it the "Walgreens Law," while folks in Hayes Valley call it the "Starbucks Law." That's because in writing it, Gonzalez was responding to two neighborhood protests over the establishment of a branch outlet of a large chain.

The legislation was personally schlepped from meeting to meeting by Gonzalez, and as a result, underwent many changes. The term "chain stores" was replaced by the more politically correct "formula businesses." The new term was defined as businesses owned by a corporation having more than 12 such stores, with similar store fronts merchandise and dress code.

The legislation requires notification in all Neighborhood Commercial Districts when a formula business is planning to establish itself. In Cole Valley it requires the more stringent conditional use permit and in Hayes Valley formula businesses are prohibited entirely.

These rules are clearly not something *all* neighborhoods want. Many are actively seeking the business presence and reliability of chain stores. But CVIA's board endorsed it, in spite of the feeling of some that it was just one more impediment, in a long list, to doing business in San Francisco.

—Karen Crommie

### **Call for News**

We need news items, articles, letters, opinion pieces. Please tell us what you know about Cole Valley and the greater Haight Ashbury: handwritten, typewritten, e-mailed or scrawled on cocktail napkins. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 624 Ashbury St. or [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com).

# Remembering 5 Parnassus

As if veiled to mourn her own death, the Grand Dame at 5 Parnassus sits with her heart and soul torn out. In spite of promises made by the new owners to maintain this historically significant trea-



sure, it appears that the only thing they haven't changed is the address. The current owner's bid was accepted due to claims that they loved the house and would maintain its historic integrity. Now all that is left of her is the memory of how she was for nearly 100 years.



The Curtaz family had the house custom built in 1905. They worked with a contractor and builder

to complete their home. The family owned and resided in the house for the duration of the century. There is a photograph thought to be from 1908 of the last family occupant: a little girl sitting on the front steps.

The house is Craftsman and Queen Anne in its features. The interiors were bathed in light and rich with classical detailing. With the exception of the addition of a garage (1908), garage extension (1915) and sun porch (1917), it was an exceptional intact, well-crafted early 20th century home. Those of us fortunate enough to have seen the interior, were treated to the rare experience of stepping back in time. The smallest original details were still in place.

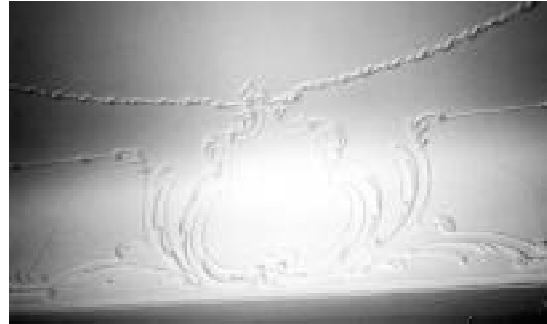


On the main floor was the living room with a fireplace, a carved mantle and tile work. On each side of the fireplace were stained glass windows with a flower motif. Along with the original wainscoting was decorative molding of the floral motif. The coved ceil-

ings were enhanced with plaster curlicues which were seen throughout the main floor. The dining room had built-in cabinets with leaded glass doors. Pocket doors with hardware were intact.

The kitchen was my favorite with a working bell system to call the servants. The original built-in cabinets and porcelain sink were in excellent condition. The stove looked as if out of the show room.

Another feature of this turn of the century home was a built-in vacuum system throughout the house. It also had its original gasolier



light fixtures, hardware, door-knobs and plates. Even the keys were still around.

The top two floors were bedrooms, bathrooms and the sun porch. The bathroom had a claw foot tub and blue and yellow tile work. On the sun porch was a Murphy bed. There were little built-in closets on the children's floor, just perfect for hide and go seek.

When the selling realtor Ian Berke first explored the house he found an old trunk upstairs. In the trunk was a photograph of one of the family members working as a nurse during the 1918 influenza epidemic. There were even old flu masks from the epidemic.

The bottom floor of the house had the utility areas and what appeared to be a ballroom. Original fixtures and Art Nouveau wall-paper lined the ballroom. The room also had benches around it for the dancers to rest.

*This incredible time capsule has been lost forever to broken promises.*

—Judith Mahnke

*Ed. note: The above article expresses the opinion of the author and not necessarily that of CVIA. We welcome other points of view in the ongoing renovation vs. preservation dialogue.*

## Farmers Market Labor Pains

As advocates of a Panhandle farmers' market continue to meet with members of Rec and Park, remaining problems demonstrate the complexity of the enterprise and the difficulties ahead.

At an April 16 meeting between the Panhandle Market Committee\*, PROSF\* and Rec and Park's Michael Morlin and Dan McKenna, issues around turf repair and pressure cleaning of the tarmac, stood in line behind basic questions of impact on traffic flow, parking and truck unloading. Then there was the question of an overall budget, general liability, cost of booths, funding for usage fees and performance bonds.

Faced with problems, many of which arise out of the vulnerability of the Panhandle both as a fragile section of park land and as a narrow strip between two major traffic arteries, the group discussed two alternate sites: one on JFK during the Sunday closure, the other on the newly-closed Waller Street. Christian Holmer reports that although those locations would create far fewer problems, the Panhandle neighbors felt it would defeat their primary goal which is to bring the market into the center of the community.

—Karen Crommie

\*Panhandle Farmers Market Committee was represented by Cheryl Brodie, Karen Fishkin and Jason Bobier while Panhandle Residents Organization/SF was represented by Mary Helen Briscoe and Christian Holmer

## Looking Ahead: Cole Street Fair

Cole Valley street fair organizers Lori Elder and Maryo Moganam met recently to discuss plans for this year's event. Here are Lori's notes on some of the things they talked about.

■ **Children:** We need more stuff for kids. We thought of renting an inflatable play structure and placing it at Cole and Grattan. Good location since it's at the end and out of the main part of the fair. Since the street is flat, it will also draw families to those booths up that way so I will place certain artists accordingly. I found another artist with a kid's booth that makes regular appearances at other fairs and I hear he is a big hit. The balloon artist will be back.

■ **Band placement:** We thought about moving the stage to Parnassus and Cole, on the Parnassus side near Cole Valley Fitness. Sound is better distributed, and we have those streets blocked anyway. There's more open space at that intersection also.

■ **Food booths:** We have some great options for more local food. Reverie (cafe) carries an Italian assortment of food called "Southern Specialties." The vendor is great and her catering busi-



*The first street fair, held last October, attracted thousands to Cole Valley.*

ness is here in the neighborhood. There's new store at Stanyan and Frederick called "The Sugar Free Zone" with good stuff. I spoke with them and they want a booth. There are more options like that. We thought of placing those extra food booths on Parnassus and Cole (Alpha Market side) since that is also blocked.

■ **Volunteers:** We thought it would be good to hire four paid volunteers at \$10 an hour, so if/when we need them they will take over.

■ **Political booths:** Some would like an area, two to three booths, for political purposes. We don't want that, and feel the fair is not the right venue for politics. We are a small festival, and don't want those booths taking up artists' space.

Those are the main general changes / additions we spoke about. For more information I can be reached at 242-9068 or leftfield@thebiglove.com

—Lori Elder



**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.**

## Newsom Ousts Goldstein

In a somewhat stunning development last month, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department General Manager Elizabeth Goldstein "resigned."

While reports are still ebbing out about the exact process for her departure, one thing is clear: Goldstein's nearly four-year tenure at the head of the Rec and Park is over—at the request of the new Mayor.

Caught in a three-year budget squeeze and unrelenting second-guessing at the hands of neighborhoods activists, Goldstein found herself squarely in the center of a series of contentious issues and in the crosshairs of a mayor bent on change.

Appointed by former Mayor Willie Brown in June 2000, Goldstein was quickly embroiled in a dispute with the formidable dog lobby over enforcement of the city's dog policy and also deluged with complaints over her Natural Areas Program. In addition, former Supervisor Leland Yee and current Supervisor Tony Hall regularly took aim at Goldstein and her handling of the department.



*Elizabeth Goldstein*

But in the end, Goldstein found herself in the seemingly unwinnable position of establishing a middle ground on issues in an effort to appease vocal neighborhood activists, who were ultimately unaccepting of any level of compromise. Even citizen advisory committees, which were created specifically to develop solutions acceptable to all, proved to be contentious and most often unproductive.

Goldstein was so well respected during her days in New York that incoming Mayor Michael Bloomberg offered her the job of running the New York Parks and Recreation Department in 2001 which she turned down. A proven fundraiser, she has already accepted a position as President of the California State Parks Foundation.

Mayor Gavin Newsom has tapped Capital Programs Manager Yomi Agunbiade to replace Goldstein as interim General Manager.

Less than a year after moving from his job as a city architect to take over for Gary Hoy in the capital division, Agunbiade will now handle both roles while the Mayor seeks Goldstein's permanent replacement. A national search is reportedly underway. Her final day as General Manager was May 4.

As he takes over for Goldstein, Agunbiade must still deal with issues in his capital programs division where he is involved in discussions with a variety of neighborhood groups whose scheduled renovations have been put on hold due to the budget shortfall.

—David Hatfield, *Friends of Recreation and Parks*



David Hatfield, whose articles are familiar to readers of CVIA News, recently announced that he is leaving Friends of Recreation and Parks for a position with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. CVIA wishes David the very best and thanks him for his lively updates on Park issues over the years.

*Photo: David Hatfield at Music in Buena Vista Park, May 2003.*

## CVIA Board Actions

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

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

### February

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.
- Discussed concerns about Cala Foods from guests Eric Mann, Ruth Wheeler and Briana Wheeler regarding reported sales to inebriates. Agreed to write a letter to store district manager asking that they comply with law.
- Reviewed background material on the Farmers Market proposed for the Panhandle.
- Kezar Advisory Committee members Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa discussed upcoming events at Kezar Stadium noting the closure of its field in December and April.
- Agreed to send another letter to Elizabeth Goldstein supporting the work of Martin MacIntyre in his efforts to control levels of amplification during Golden Gate Park events.
- Agreed to send \$100 to Save our Neighborhoods to help in their appeal of the preliminary Negative Declaration issued by the Planning Department for the city's controversial Housing Element.
- Discussed Workforce Housing measure, Muni policy on natural gas busses, closure of The Shop, Happy Trails and Dharma.

### March

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.
- After lengthy discussion, voted to support Supervisor Gonzalez's Formula Business legislation. Appointed Joan Downey spokesperson at upcoming hearing. Agreed to write support letter.
- Heard report on rise in car boosting (theft of items within) and other information from February's Park District Police community meeting.
- Discussed Rec and Park's recently revealed record of undercharging groups staging large events in Golden Gate Park (researched by Martin MacIntyre).
- Discussed the need for a stop sign at the Beulah and Stanyan Street intersection.
- Discussed proposed demolition of 450 Frederick. Reviewed legal and preservation issues at length. Agreed there was no lack of compliance with city ordinances and that preservation issues were too weak to warrant support of protesting neighbors.
- Discussed rumored closing of Clayton Street Post Office. Karen Crommie volunteered to join a committee lead by Cheryl Brodie to gather information and organize a coalition of neighborhood groups to oppose this.

### April

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.
- Nancy Corsaut announced that CVIA's articles of incorporation under the 501(c)(3) provision had been filed in Sacramento.
- Guest Brian O'Flynn presented his case against the recent Board

lot at 701 Lombard St. Voted to support him in this appeal.

- Discussed possibility of printing a calendar with historic photographs of Cole Valley and the Haight Ashbury. Will continue item to next month with further discussion of copyright, stock, printer, format and cost recovery.
- Heard report from Joan Downey on the State Board of Appeals' overturn of the injunction obtained by Trees Not Cars which had halted Concourse garage construction. (This group is a spin-off of Alliance for Golden Gate Park. Both Katherine Roberts and Stephen Willis had filed separate law suits alleging violations of the voter-approved bond measure Prop. J [June 1998].)
- Agreed to write a letter to Capt. John Ehrlich asking that he enforce laws prohibiting parking on sidewalks.
- Approved resolution opposing termination of Muni's 7-Haight line.
- Discussed Lori Elder's recommendations for improving the Heart of Cole Fair. Agreed with her suggestions but it was the consensus of the board that amplified bands were out of keeping with the spirit of a neighborhood street fair, and that we didn't feel that an inflated play structure for children was appropriate.

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

## Dave Grenell Gets Commitment for New Panhandle Restrooms

Matt Gonzalez's new aide is the kind of person who always seems to be operating slightly above the content of his concerns. Neither ideologue or eager beaver, Dave Grenell is a thoughtful man with a whimsical goatee and a world-weariness beyond his years, who doesn't feel it demeaning to wear a suit and tie.

Grenell told the audience at a recent district PROSF\* meeting, "You've been waiting seven years for someone to turn down the volume on Sharon Meadow events and six years for a new Panhandle toilet, clearly you are not being served by Rec and Park." Then he reported locating the \$650,000 Rec and Park had stashed in their vaults for new Panhandle toilets and adjoining recreation administration office.

His quest was assisted by the secretary's recorded minutes of a 5Together\*\* meeting held in November 2002, which revealed that Rec and Park representatives (Jorge Alfaro, Alan Wong and John Farley) had promised Supervisor Gonzalez that the bid for the new restrooms would go out by March 2003. Armed with that information, Grenell was able to extract a promise from Rec and Park's capital division for new toilets within the next 12 months.

At a subsequent meeting on April 30, PROSF's Mary Helen Briscoe reported that Rec and Park has decided to go with a custom prefab restroom design including one mens' stall and two womens'. Attached will be a gardeners' storage shed. A recreation director's office is not included at this time. There will be a 30-day posting before the necessary cutting of a few old trees. Sewer pipes will be inspected and the demolition of the existing restroom will follow.

—Karen Crommie

\*Panhandle Residents Organization/SF

\*\*5Together is a coalition of neighborhood organizations in supervisorial district 5.

Free Shuttle Returns to Golden Gate Park on May 22  
(McLaren Lodge to the Beach Chalet with pickups at UCSF Garage)

# Crime is a Neighborhood Affair

If you haven't already been to an SFPD Park Station District Community Forum, you might want to check it out. It's a great way to meet other interested, active people in the neighborhood. You also get the opportunity to talk to Captain John Ehrlich and other invited city officials about local issues (local as in "here's what's happening on these three blocks and what we are doing to address it"). Finally, you contribute to the solutions of chronic problems with your ideas and by learning how the police and other groups are approaching them.

At a recent community forum I had the opportunity to learn about what's happening at the district attorney's office since Kamala Harris took over. It's all good. Sam Totah and Brian Bringardner, both Deputy DAs, announced that the office was partnering with police districts all over town to work cases together. They also said that at least one of them would be at every monthly meeting in the Park District to listen to the neighborhood concerns and priorities.

They said morale is terrific under Harris with a new, strong emphasis on going to trial and winning cases. Training courses have been offered to the DA's office staff and they are working with the police on training as well. Both attorneys agreed that the department's relationship with the Police command staff is better than it's been in at least eight years.\* And, while computer systems are still absent (think large company offices circa 1965), plans are in the works to bring in technology and make the DA a fully functional law office. It sounds like a lot of accomplishment in a very short time.

Later in the meeting, Captain Ehrlich gave a demonstration of CrimeMaps - the San Francisco Police Department's new technology tool for analyzing crime and managing resources. It shows the police (and with its web interface, the public) what kind of crime is taking place and where. It looks like it will be a core tool to help the police and the DA deal more effectively with issues before they get out of hand. The information this system provides is impressive and gave my old techie heart a very warm fuzzy feeling.

Park Police Community Forums take place the last Thursday of every month (excepting November and December) at Park Station, Waller and Stanyan, at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

—Eric Mann

(Above reprinted with permission from Plan C online newsletter)

*\*Ed. note: Even though DA Harris is currently at odds with the SFPD over the issue of the death penalty, it is important to realize the positive impact she has made during her first four months in office.*



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.

**May 27\*, June 24, July 29**

\*The May 27 meeting will be held at the Boys and Girls Club at 1950 Page St. and will present information about resources for youth and parents during the months of summer vacation.

Call Sgt. Mark Porto for details: 242-3032

# Concourse Garage Proceeds

Despite legal challenges, the construction of the new parking garage in Golden Gate Park's band concourse is moving ahead.

On March 12, a Superior Court judge had issued a temporary injunction on groundbreaking for the DeYoung garage and scheduled a hearing for May 12. But on March 25 a temporary stay was granted to the Music Concourse Community Partnership allowing construction to begin. The temporary stay was granted after four hours of deliberation on the grounds that the DeYoung would lose \$3.7 million every month the garage is delayed.

Shortly after the stay was granted, over twenty 100-year old flowering cherry trees were removed. Then on April 21, the north-east tunnel, linking the Concourse to the children's playground (between 8th and 9th avenues) was demolished. This came after Michael Ellzey, Executive Director of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority, had promised the Citizens Advisory Committee that he would protect the architectural features of the Music Concourse after he had apologized for the destruction of trees that were to be protected.

During the demolition of the tunnel, a water irrigation pipe was severed. This not only flooded part of the children's playground but also cut off the water source for parts of Strybing Arboretum and the east end of Golden Gate Park for four days.

—Joan Downey

*Editor's note: When construction workers broke an unmapped irrigation line on April 22, those critical of the Concourse Authority cried foul. They cite this as one example of the project's lack of*



*sensitivity to the innate historic value of the Concourse and its access tunnels. Their major complaint is that the Authority is not complying with the Prop J mandate to make the Concourse a "pedestrian oasis." (A few hours after the photo above was taken, the tunnel was demolished.)*

## Where the Wild Things Are

A Great Blue Heron family, proud inhabitants of an enormous nest a few feet from the Stow Lake Boathouse, are now feeding their young. Spotting scopes and guides available on Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to noon.



## Cole Valley Author Shows Us The Trees of San Francisco

Cole Valley resident Michael Sullivan is the author of a long needed guide to the most popular street trees in San Francisco. A certified arborist and past board president of Friends of the Urban Forest, Sullivan is also an attorney, cofounder of Plan C and creator of a Cole Valley website.



This gigantic Monterey Pine is on the corner of Willard and Belmont.

The CVIA member has produced a valuable resource that not only identifies the most common trees but also tells you where you can find them.

Featuring excellent color photos and suggested walking tours, the book is a must-have for residents of the greater Haight as its trees are especially well represented. Available at most bookstores, including The Booksmith on Haight St. Published by Pomegranate Press ([www.pomegranate.com](http://www.pomegranate.com)).

## Controversial Housing Element to Be Heard on May 13

The section of the city's General Plan covering housing policy (Housing Element) will finally be heard at the Planning Commission on May 13. Residents of older neighborhoods with identified "transit corridors" are concerned at the document's support of higher density, relaxation of parking quotas and approval of secondary units. This hearing has been postponed several times in response to pressure on both Mayor Newsom and the Planning Department to rein it in.



CVIA supported an appeal of the negative declaration (Neg Dec) issued earlier by the Planning Department stating there would be no environmental impact on the city as a result of this. A finding hard to accept when it would provide the city with a policy enabling defacto rezoning of many neighborhoods.

If you are planning to go to this meeting (City Hall, Room 400, 1:30 p.m.) be sure to verify the agenda first by calling 558-6422.

—Karen Crommie

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 Summer edition should be sent before July 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

## Research Reveals Rec and Park Negligent in Fee Collection

Could the city use \$5 million? This is only a portion of what Rec and Park has failed to charge event promoters for the use of Sharon Meadow. Rec and Park doesn't even have the auditable books and records for a major promoter (Events West) who has only paid a minimum fee of \$7,500 a day.

Despite being informed of these facts, the Rec and Park Commission approved the request of "Another Planet's Entertainment" to present the Dave Matthews Band on September 11, 2004 at the Polo Field, for an audience of 60,000. On the bad advice of the Rec and Park City Attorney, Rec and Park commissioners at first were told this event qualified as a Community/Noncommercial event that would be charged \$50,000—a figure that was raised to \$100,000 at the full commission hearing. That was supposed to look generous excepting that Park Code 12.22 on Commercial Event Fees mandates a charge of \$300,000 (\$2,500 per 500 audience/day).

The Promoter, along with Rec and Park staff and the Rec and Park City Attorney are trying to pass this off as a noncommercial event because the tickets are free. However, they have permission to sell food, drinks (beer & wine), CDs, posters, caps and T-shirts without the city getting a penny other than sales tax. If they charged the usual \$20 admission, they might only have an audience of 12,000 (like "Now & Zen") and would have to pay the same \$50,000 - \$100,000 fee to Rec and Park but would only have 12,000 people, instead of 60,000 for non-ticket sales from which Rec and Park receives nothing.

The promoter used the same approach last September 11 in New York's Central Park with 80,000 (free tickets) in attendance but New York received \$2 million from their corporate sponsor (AOL). How can Rec and Park rent this valuable city property for only \$100,000 when they are laying off employees? Why are they doing this?

The logical answers are discouraging. For firsthand information call NYC Rec and Park special events at (212) 360-3456 x 592 and ask for Julie. In San Francisco, call Sandy Lee at 831-5510 (Permits and Reservations). Check for yourself on the internet San Francisco Park Codes 12.22 (a) Commercial Events #1, #2, and #5.

—Martin MacIntyre

## Danger: Beulah and Stanyan

For over a year the neighbors near the intersection of Beulah and Stanyan have been trying to make that intersection safer for drivers and pedestrians. Stanyan Street is a 4-lane street with a fairly heavy flow of traffic. At the Beulah Street intersection, pedestrians do not have anything but a crosswalk to aid their trip across Stanyan Street.

A number of neighbors have reported accidents or near misses. On January 13, Gloria Galindo received a letter that DPT would put up yellow-green pedestrian crossing signs but seven weeks later, there are still no signs.

CVIA has written to DPT to take measures to make the intersection safer and has requested that a traffic study be performed for Stanyan and Frederick Streets which has seen a considerable increase in traffic since the closing of Waller St. Another potentially dangerous intersection is Frederick and Willard—where people cross to use Kezar Stadium. Again, there is only a crosswalk there.

—Gloria Galindo, Carole Glosenger and Lena Emmery contributed to this article.



# Two Views on Proposed Demolition of 450 Frederick Street

## Neighbors' Opposition:

Residents of Frederick, Shrader and Beulah Streets are protesting the proposed demolition of a single-family dwelling at 450 Frederick and the construction in its place of a three-condo building. We are especially concerned with compromised light, space, and privacy as well as design issues. The proposed architecture is ill-suited to surrounding houses and disregards the current roofline of 450 Frederick and most of Frederick, between Stanyan and Cole, and all of Shrader Street between Frederick and Beulah.

450 Frederick was built in 1897, or earlier; its last owners were a family that lived in the house for more than 80 years. The floor plan and overall structure are duplicated in four nearby houses, all dating from 1897. One of these homes, at 841 Shrader, was converted in 1996 back into a single-family home by a family that had been renting one of the two units. They purchased the house and still live there. Another of the houses, 833 Shrader, was purchased in 2003 and is currently being renovated for resale as a single-family dwelling. While there has been deferred maintenance on 450 Frederick and the facade no longer reflects its Victorian heritage, the interior can be successfully renovated—the restored houses mentioned above are tangible evidence of this—either as a single-family home or, as once occurred at 841 Shrader, converted into a two-unit building. 450 Frederick is a transitional house, visually contributing to a stepping down effect that, even with the presence of a large corner house, serves as an architectural segue into the harmonious grouping of two-story houses on Shrader Street.

The owner of 450 Frederick, Alexander Gutkin, purchased the building in the summer of 2003 and he has been renting it since then to four people for approximately \$2,000 a month. Affordable rental housing in this neighborhood, like most San Francisco neighborhoods, is at a premium. Mr. Gutkin has repeatedly and fervently argued to some of the neighbors that 450 Frederick is uninhabitable due to its unsound structural. Apparently, the building has been sound enough to rent ever since he took ownership. We have questioned Mr. Gutkin's motives and tactics, not least his offer to paint our houses, perform minor remodeling, or simply write out a check for \$1,000. Morality and legality aside, his offers to pay us off indicate he is aware of the flaws of his project.

We have been educating ourselves about the Planning Department's guidelines for demolition and new construction, and have read the new draft residential guidelines. We've been told by Planning that a mandatory discretionary review will take place, probably in the spring.

*Ed. note: The above was signed by 35 neighbors. We have listed only those living on the same block of Frederick as the proposed demolition.*

Francois Chadwick-462 Frederick #2, Elaine Chan-461 Frederick, Karl Cohen and Denise McEvoy-478 Frederick, Andrew Cypriot and Tina Hoff-458 Frederick, Joanne and Ellen Haller-457 Frederick, Lyall Harris and Francesco Ronchetti-459 Frederick, Terry Hurley-415 Frederick, Kellie Krug and Ron Walter-479 Frederick, Francisco Rodriguez and Mary Ann Nikl-447 Frederick, Bob and Diane Silver-419 Frederick, Elaine Silverman, and George Morabi-452 Frederick

## Owner's Response:

It has been asserted that replacing an original 1900 building with a new structure will negatively impact neighborhood's image and value. Provided that the existing structure had significant historic or aesthetic value, this would be a serious contention.

However, I have proof that this is not the case. I have consulted with the California Historical Society and received absolutely no objections to the demolition of the building. As a requirement of the City Planning Department, I have also sought and obtained an exemption from the Environmental Review Board, whose officer had concluded that whatever value the building originally had has been lost due to the modifications that have been made since. *The existing building on the project site appears to have been substantially altered. Specifically the windows have been changed, trim has been removed, and the building has been clad in new, possibly aluminum, siding. Because of these alterations, the building does not appear to qualify for listing on the California Register under any criteria. The building is, therefore, not an historical resource.*<sup>1</sup>

If remodeling the building will not restore the historic value it never had, it will also not alleviate the inherent deficiencies in the building architecture. Due to the sloping roof, the upper floor does not present a highly livable space by any standards. No amount of remodeling will correct this problem and serve to improve the living condition of its future occupants – your neighbors.

Removing the other problems, such as the deteriorated foundation and framing is simply too cost prohibitive; again, this is not simply an empty claim, but a fact backed up by the City Planning guidelines for demolition and construction. Remodeling the house and attempting to restore the facade to its original condition would be ignoring another important consideration—that the size and style of the current structure breaks the architectural rhythm defined by its two Victorian neighbors.

In designing the new building, great care was taken in implementing architectural details that would harmonize with the adjacent buildings, enhancing the panoramic perspective of the block.

Furthermore, it is often worthwhile in a dispute to consider the motivations of the opposing party. It is clear from the facts stated above that a concern for the neighborhood's image and the living conditions of your neighbors is not the ruling interest behind the position opposed to the project. I will venture to guess that the real reason behind the campaign is a concern, rather, for perceived self interest. What is really at stake is a concern over a possible partial loss of the view of St. Mary's Cathedral (sic) at almost a mile's distance.

I would be more than happy to discuss further any aspects of this project or to disclose building plans, etc. that are of interest.

—Alexander Gutkin

1. Paul Maltzer, "Certificate of Determination of Exemption/Exclusion from Environmental Review"



*As a result of an appeal before the Board of Supervisors on April 13, the Planning Department, which had earlier given approval for the demolition of 450 Frederick St., rescinded its finding until they examined new evidence presented by the appellants' architectural historian attesting that the building is located in a "potential historic district." For more information contact city planner Nannie Turrell at 558-5994.*

## Postscripts

There have been reports of squatters inside the former **Christian Science Church** across from Buena Vista Park. As the building awaits conversion into senior housing, the developers (Citizens Housing) would like to be contacted if anyone sees illegal activity in or around the premises. Contact Alex Galovich at 421-8605.

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**Lavande** is the new manicure/pedicure/waxing salon on Carl near Cole in the place where **Lori Elder's** art gallery (**The Shop**) had its



stylish stint. One day after the doors opened, all chairs were full. Who would have thought there were that many Cole Valley women in such desperate need of repair?

\*\*\*

The tiny **Kevin Collins Garden**, next to the **Panhandle Playground** is up and growing with potatoes and leeks positioned for a June



harvest. As a "living classroom," it allows children to create and learn about flowers, vegetables, composting and recycling. The project sponsors welcome volunteers, call 564-3173 to learn more.

\*\*\*

**The Red Vic** is bringing back two films from a time when young Americans were obsessed with all things French. "**Battle of Algiers**" will play on May 30 and 31 and right on its heels, "**Breathless**" with **Jean Seberg** and **Jean Paul Belmondo** (June 2, 3). Remember that thing he did with his mouth?

**Richard Kay** of the **Haight-Divisadero Neighbors and Merchants Association** is spearheading an effort to save the historic fire house on Oak Street. In the fire which followed the '06 quake, firefighters



working out this station saved much of the Western Addition and the Haight. In this time of scarce city money, the SFFD has it on its "for sale" list. If this is a preservation project that interests you, contact Richard at r-k@prodigy.net

\*\*\*

Be sure to see the delightful **Bufano** animal sculptures which since 1945 had resided in **Valencia Gardens** and have been recently moved to the **Randall Museum** (Museum Way, just off of Roosevelt) while



the public housing complex is being rebuilt. With some in the process of refurbishment, they represent the largest collection of Bufanos in the Bay Area. They should be there until 2006.

\*\*\*

Planning activists who don't want to pay higher fees for having a say in proposed changes in their neighborhood will turn out on May 20 when the **Planning Commission** will consider the department's

recommendation for raising the fee for **Discretionary Review** from \$133 to \$300. On the other hand, if it helps you keep your sunlight or privacy, maybe it's little enough.

\*\*\*

Will the **Muni's 7 Haight** line get the axe in next year's budget? And are we being selfish to campaign against it considering Haight



Street is fairly well served transit-wise? In a perfect world, we might be generous, but we know that city politics (read: money) is dog-eat-dog. So to **Michael Burns** we say no, no, no! Take your paws off the 7 Haight. —Karen Crommie

## Letters

Dear CVIA:

Many, many years ago (at least twenty years ago) there was a neighborhood project where they put up captioned historical photos of Cole Valley on the street, almost like street signs. For example, I remember waiting for the 43 Masonic to go to school at the corner of Cole and Frederick and there was a sign looking the block of Frederick between Cole and Shrader (where I grew up and where my mother still lives) in the 1920s. I have never come across this photo anywhere else since.

Does this project ring a bell, and if not do you know if there is a collection of old photos of Cole Valley archived somewhere beyond what they have at the San Francisco Center at the Main Public Library? Any help you can provide would be appreciated.

Mark Burford

*Ed. note: We referred Mark Burford to Greg Garr's historic photo library, but if anyone can help him more specifically, please contact cviasf@aol.com.*

## CVIA Officers

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

### Cviasf@aol.com

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

# HELP

- Emergency..... 911**
- Disturbance .....553-0123**
- Blocked Driveways & Parking on Sidewalks ....553-1200**
- Abandoned Vehicles.....781-5865**
- Health Department .....255-3610**
- Litter Patrol (sofas, mattresses, etc.) .....695-2017**
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal .....28-CLEAN  
282-5326**
- Street Lighting .....554-0730**
- Mayor 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 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

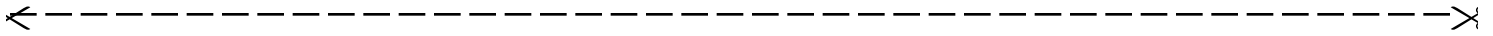
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2. Michela Alioto-Pier Michela.Alioto@sfgov.org	554-7752	554-7483
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4. Fiona Ma Fiona.Ma@sfgov.org	554-7460	554-7432
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8. Bevan Dufty Bevan.Dufty@sfgov.org	554-6968	554-6909
9. Tom Ammiano Tom.Ammiano@sfgov.org	554-5144	554-6255
10. Sophie Maxwell Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11. Gerardo Sandoval Gerardo.Sandoval@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

### BECOME A CVIA MEMBER

Membership in the Cole Valley Improvement Association is open to anyone interested in the greater Haight Ashbury. CVIA's mission is to promote a sense of responsibility and mutual respect throughout the 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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