

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XVIII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

May 2005

## Last Days for De Avila School

Many children in Cole Valley were assigned by the School District to William R. De Avila Elementary School. Not many families accepted this placement. Out of this year's forty assigned kindergarten families, only eight had registered on the last day to do so. Now the school board has voted to close its doors.

With capacity for 500 students, the school's current enrollment is 107 children, mostly bussed in from other neighborhoods. Test scores are below the 50 percentile. According to a recent article in the Chronicle, not even the school is fighting the closure. The faculty and staff work very hard with the students, 25 percent of whom come from homeless families—many housed at the Hamilton Family Center. It will be sad for them to lose their school, too.

William De Avila is a beautiful building. It is one of many San Francisco Unified School District's architectural treasures. The in-



Opened in 1896 as the Dudley Stone Elementary School, the present building was constructed in 1926. The name was changed to William R. De Avila in 1980.

terior has lovely tile work; it is clean and well cared for. The classrooms have walls of windows that open and let in natural light and fresh air. The Aim High program occupies the upper floor.

There has been no information as to what will happen to the building if the school closes. The district moves quickly on these changes and it's important that the community is part of the decision process. So keep an ear open to the future plans for this beautiful neighborhood building.

—Judith Mahnke

## Thanks to the members . . .

...who send us encouraging notes, renew for multiple years and send contributions. We just want to mention a few of them here: Les Silverstein, Ira Govan, Constance and Dan Reid, Voytech Licko, Margareta Ekblad, Richard Felciano, John Manning, Dennis Martino, Tom Nicoll, Kerwin Mathews, Terry Mammini, Dave and Ginny Keller and Gerardo Joffe.

## Cole Street Merchants Seek Solutions to Double Parking

A half-dozen of Cole Street's most responsible shop owners recently met with neighbors and representatives of DPT at the BurgerMeister to discuss the worsening traffic congestion on Cole



Pictured left to right: Rick Karp (Cole Hardware), Dirk Spencer (Cole Garage) and Paul Mogannam (BurgerMeister) were among the Cole Valley merchants who met with DPT's Jerry Robbins and Eleanor Truvillion at a meeting organized by CVIA's Joan Downey (back to camera).

Street between Beulah and Parnassus. Double-parked delivery trucks and private automobiles regularly force the two Cole Street bus lines to a dead stop, particularly the 43 bus which has to make a turn from Parnassus on to Cole.

The meeting, held on April 14, was organized by CVIA's Joan Downey, who supplied a large map of the two blocks, indicating the various businesses, yellow zones, bus stops and all Muni lines. The merchants openly shared information and described a variety of problems to Jerry Robbins, transportation planner for the Department of Parking and Traffic and DPT's enforcement supervisors Eleanor Truvillion and Gregory Sedlock.



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It was made clear that there are valid needs by businesses, whose presence and success are important to Cole Valley residents: all retail stores need to receive deliveries; the garage needs parking places to store cars; dry cleaning shops need short-term parking places; restaurants need places where customers can park a couple of hours. Both Alpha Market and Cole Hardware must take deliveries near the corner of Parnassus, which is the critical corner for the turn of the 43 bus.

Current ordinances permit parking in yellow zones by commercially licensed vehicles only during loading or unloading, and allow double-parking for these trucks when the yellow zone is already taken. When vehicles park in one of the two bus zones in the intersection, they, like a private car, are subject to a fine of \$250.

Merchants who attended the meeting were Rick Karp and Shel Klein from Cole Hardware, Dirk Spencer from Cole Garage, Paul Mogannam from BurgerMeister, Dinos Farmas from Bambinos, and Maryo Mogannam from Postal Chase /Cole Street Foods. Also present was the Cole Valley resident who originally asked that some action be taken to alleviate the situation, Leah Scholer.

The merchants were willing to take responsibility for much of the congestion, but also pointed out that the yellow zones, designed for delivery trucks, are being misused by customers for short term parking. They also pointed to UPS trucks that gather around five o'clock to redistribute overnight packages, adding to congestion in the late afternoon, and customers of the garage who block the sidewalk while making arrangements for their car repair.

When Downey asked for suggestions for solutions, the meeting went from noisy and spontaneous to silent. Clearly it was much harder to solve the problems than to point to what contributed to them. Every solution offered seemed to hold a "down side" for one or another business. Nevertheless, there was a tentative consensus that DPT would energetically enforce the legal use of yellow zones; double-parked cars would be tagged and; cars parked at one-hour meters would be chalked, to discourage illegal "feeding" of meters. In addition, the plastic bollards preventing cars from parking in places which regularly impede the turn of the N-Judah on Carl would be reinstalled; UPS would be asked to desist from congregating (this was done the following day by Robbins); and there would be some 15-minute meters installed.

If you have ideas that might contribute to solving this problem, send us an email at [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com).

—Karen Crommie

### *Any memories of St. Joseph's Hospital?*

*San Francisco historian and writer, Timothy Keegan, is doing research for an article about the former hospital, which originally occupied the building at 351-355 Buena Vista East, now the Park Hill condominiums. He's especially interested in talking with physicians, nurses and others who were on the hospital's staff, and with anyone who was ever a patient. If you or someone you know have memories or other information from the St. Joseph's Hospital era, please contact Tim by e-mail at [teekee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:teekee@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message for him at 681-6665.*

## "Unique" Describes Stumasa

Maybelle Imasa and Gregory Stukuls have turned the little store at 515 Frederick into a very special environment. The former shop had been rather dull with unfinished furniture, mostly bookshelves.

While you can still have unfinished furniture made to suit your needs, there is much more afoot. The carefully selected array of goods range from household accessories to special toys and baby needs. All the items are of high quality and still priced to suit our neighborhood. Much more fun than Macy's, and easier to navigate.

Maybelle is also a master calligrapher, whose work is featured in the current issue of *Martha Stewart Weddings*. She is available for



*Maybelle Imasa has assembled a collection of unusual but functional items of high quality in her Frederick Street store.*

custom work. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sundays, noon to 5:00 p.m. Stumasa's telephone number is 759-1234.

—Lena Emmery

## Some Asking for More Taxes

See the writing on the wall, and get used to it. A group of delegates to the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods—CVIA among them—recently heard a pitch for establishing "Community Benefits Districts." If you feel the urge to check your wallet, you're not far off the mark.

Stymied by diminishing city services, neighborhoods are apparently banding together and agreeing to pay an additional tax, above and beyond their property tax, to receive additional "benefits," such as more frequent street cleaning, graffiti abatement, tree care, undergrounding of utility wires, signage, street fairs, etc. Considering the bite of San Francisco property taxes, it sounds delusional to willingly pay more, doesn't it? Seven districts are contemplating it, and one, Union Square, already has it.

Why has it come to this? According to Marco Li Mandri, who teaches neighborhoods how to create CBDs, it's caused by city workers' pensions. When the economy tanked, everyone had their income reduced excepting those on pensions. Those had to be paid in full, no matter what, so cities all over the country have found themselves increasingly strapped for funds to provide even the most basic services. Don't say you weren't warned.

—Karen Crommie

## Skateboarders Seek More Time to Ride on Sidewalks

The Skateboard Task Force, an appointed advisory board to the Board of Supervisors, has recommended a minor change to the Municipal Traffic Code, Section 100, which regulates skateboarding. It is currently legal to skate on public residential sidewalks in the city only from sunrise to sunset. The new version of the law would permit skating in the evenings with proper reflective gear or lighting on those same public residential sidewalks. It would also permit riding a



*The skateboarder shown above is breaking state law, which says that skateboards cannot be ridden on public streets. They are, however, allowed on residential sidewalks during daylight hours.*

skateboard on public business district sidewalks after business hours. Finally, it will also promote education and outreach to ensure that skateboarders know their responsibilities and the law when on a board. California law prohibits riding a skateboard on a public street of any kind. Young people who use skateboards for transportation have no other options than to use a public sidewalk for riding. It is unfortunate that people stereotype skateboarders simply by their appearance.

The Skateboard Task Force is also recommending construction of more skate parks in San Francisco which will have two results. First, new parks will address the recreational needs of our young people, as they practice the recreational side of their sport. Skateboarding is the fastest growing sport in the city and the nation. Second, with additional skating venues, a noticeable portion of skating activity will shift to those venues. The locations will give skaters a world-class place to go to enjoy the sport.

The Task Force has a proposed Master Plan for Skateboarding where the entire work of the group can be viewed. Comments on the draft plan are welcomed; send comments to tedlsf@sbcglobal.net. The draft plan can be found on the Youth Commission web site of

SFGOV.ORG, at the Feb. 26th meeting notice for the Task Force. Or Google "skateboarding task force master plan sfgov" and click on the Feb. 26 meeting date notice.

—Ted Loewenberg

## Grattan Playground Loses Popular Director Tara Wattles

You may have noticed that there's a new kid in town, lots of them. Cole Valley has been growing in population. Strollers and snugglies are de rigueur at the French bakery. It is fun to see so many families appreciate the joys and advantages of raising children in our city.

One of the gathering spots for the neighborhood children is Grattan Playground. Tara Wattles has been the director for the last two years. She has done a wonderful job with programs for a variety of ages. The Tiny Tots program is for children nine months to age three. Her music classes are attended by 15-30 children each class. On Friday afternoons, there are art classes. Her girls' baseball team took first place. Nature classes occur there and in Golden Gate Park. Twice she even took a group of eight to thirteen year-olds on a trip to Camp Mather. Once a month on Friday nights there is a family potluck. The kids have a ball running around with flashlights.



*Sarah Wattles has enriched the lives of Haight/Cole Valley children by her skills, creativity and dedication.*

After a career of service to San Francisco Recreation and Parks, Tara Wattles will be retiring at the end of April. She will be missed—really missed. At this time, Rec and Park does not know if they will be able to replace her. This could be the end to all the great programs the neighborhood has been enjoying. Those of you who use Grattan Playground, know how nice it is to have the bathrooms available. If you don't appreciate the restrooms, try playing at the Panhandle and see how quickly you appreciate them. Restrooms and the above mentioned activities are why we need a new director at Grattan Playground. The activities have been community builders.

In the past, there were two full-time workers. We are down to one and, soon, possibly none. The tax base of this neighborhood certainly merits at least one full-time worker.

An empty recreation center is also an invitation for vandalism, garbage and vagrancy. These are concerns for all Cole Valley residents, not just those who use the playground.

If you would like Rec and Park to replace our director, please call Lorraine Banford at 831-2709. She is very nice and needs to hear from the neighborhood that we want a director. Do not take no for an answer or accept budget cuts as an excuse. Other rec centers have multiple employees. If you are part of a group that uses the fields, write a simple petition and pass it around to the parents. Stop by the rec center and sign the petition on the windows. ASAP send all completed petitions to Judith Mahnke, 1030 Cole Street, SF 94117. Copies will be made in case we need to submit them to more than one person before we are successful.

A great big thank you to Tara Wattles. We wish her well in this new stage of her life.

—Judith Mahnke

## Selected Police Reports from Park Station

### Death Case, Cause Unknown/Possible Suicide

**Sunday, April 17, 2005, 7:30 AM, Kezar Stadium.** A citizen, who was jogging inside of Kezar Stadium Park, informed Sgt. Gin that a person was hanging from a pole inside the Stadium. Sgt. Gin and Officer Clark responded, entered the stadium and located victim (John Doe) hanging from the northwest utility light pole. Paramedics arrived on the scene and pronounced him dead. The medical examiner took charge of the victim and the investigation. The officers attempted to locate any witnesses, with negative results. The victim appeared to be a Hispanic male in his 40s to 50s wearing blue jeans, black tennis shoes, and black nylon jacket with a maroon blanket around his upper body and shoulders.

### Indecent Exposure

**Thursday, April 14, 2005, 3:17 PM, 700 Block of Cole Street.** Officers responded to the above location on the report of a male exposing himself to a passerby wearing, get this, only a shirt and pink high heels. Upon their arrival, the flasher had retreated to the safety of his car. Officers found that indeed he was wearing pink high heels and not much else. He was allowed to dress and then transported to Park Station where he was arrested for a felony, because of the egregious nature of the offense. Oh, and the shoes were booked as evidence.

### Robbery, Street or Public Place With a Gun

**Thursday, April 14, 2005, 12:03 AM, Stanyan & Haight (Cala Parking Lot).** On the listed date and time, the victim called police and stated that the passenger in his vehicle, which was parked at the Cala Parking lot, had placed a handgun to his head and the suspect said, "Give me my money." The victim was able to convince the passenger that he would get some money from an ATM machine and left his vehicle and subsequently called the police from a pay phone. Officers Nakano #4149, Gamboa #1327 and Stearns arrived at the parking lot and located the vehicle and the passenger. The officers detained the suspect and located the gun underneath the floor mat.

### Aggravated Assault, Malicious Mischief to Muni Bus

**Tuesday, April 12, 2005, 10:48 AM, 1800 Haight Street.** A Muni bus driver flagged down two Park Station officers. The driver reported that a man had just thrown a green bottle at the driver, hitting the Muni bus door and shattering. The officers conducted an immediate search and found the bus-assaulting person a few blocks from the scene. A cold show was positive, and the man was arrested for aggravated assault, malicious mischief and a California Vehicle Code felony of throwing substance at a vehicle. Our city buses are now safe for a while.

### Possession of Marijuana and Hashish for Sale Arrest

**Tuesday, April 12, 2005, 1:05 PM, Haight and Shrader Street.** Two Park Station officers observed a man drinking from an open alcoholic container of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer and took proactive steps to cite the inebriate. While writing this man of leisure a ticket, he suddenly bolted from the police causing one heck of a foot chase, which he lost after a few blocks. It must have been the alcohol, thought the officers, but no, corrected the runner, it was "all the drugs I'm carrying in my pockets." The officers then discovered three chunks of hashish and four baggies of marijuana, which this beer loving drug dealer claimed, was quality stuff.

### Vicious Dog and Warrant Arrest

**Tuesday, April 12, 2005, 12:42 PM, Haight and Cole Sts.** Uniformed officers on regular patrol on Haight St. observed a large group of people drinking and letting a dog run loose. They pulled their vehicle over to the curb, and the large brown and white pitbull charged the officers, barking and snarling. One of the people from the group ran forward and grabbed the dog before he could bite the officer. When the dog's owner arrived at the scene, it was determined that he had warrants for his arrest. Because he was going to spend the night in a cage, his dog was destined to the same fate. Animal Care and Control took the dog for safekeeping.

### Narcotics Sale & Possession Arrest Made

**Monday, April 11, 2005, 11:57 AM, Alford Lake.** Park Station Officers observed a man and a woman conduct a hand to hand narcotics transaction near the tunnel by Alford Lake in the Golden Gate Park. On seeing the parties conclude their transaction the officers alighted from their vehicle and intercepted the man and women. The man was charged with sale of marijuana and possession of marijuana for sale as he had a substantial quantity of marijuana packaged for sale. The female was found to be in possession of several hypodermic syringes and needles and heroin. She admitted to the purchase of marijuana from the male dealer and that she was a heroin addict who enjoyed shooting up her "H" in the park with her friends, as it gave a family feel to this pastime. No wonder we continue to get daily complaints of open drug abuse and discarded needles in the park around the areas of Sharon Meadow and the children's playground.

### Aggravated Assault domestic Violence Arrest Made

**Friday April 8, 2005, 11:11 PM, 145A Belvedere Street.** Officers responded to a nasty fight in which the woman stabbed her boyfriend with a knife sharpener. The fight occurred because our suspect was jealous and mad at her boyfriend who she thinks was cheating on her with another female friend of the couple. Love gone sour caused this angry lady to go to jail, but they all remain friends.

### Felony Warrant Arrest

**Saturday April 9, 2005, 1:31 PM, Alford Lake, Golden Gate Park.** The beat officer saw a man he recognized as someone who failed to appear in court on a case. The officer ran a warrant check and found that he was wanted on a \$50,000 bail felony warrant for failing to appear on his narcotic charges. Our officer scooped up the fugitive and booked him for a sure court date next week. Now wasn't that nice?

### Robbery, Carjacking, Kidnapping and Warrant Arrest

**Sunday April 10, 2005, 7:05 PM, 1790 Haight Street.** Two people in their private car pulled over a policeman driving his squad car on Haight Street. They told the officer that they had seen a person who had robbed the female passenger approximately three weeks ago. The female joined our officer and patrolled Haight Street until she spotted the suspect. The carjacker was immediately taken into custody without incident. The female was absolutely positive of her identification, explaining that she had spent over two hours with him sticking a gun into the side of her body. The kidnapper was booked at Park Station for robbery/carjacking, kidnapping and an outstanding misdemeanor warrant with a \$5,000 bail out of Berkeley. Yeah you read it right the police got pulled over but sometimes that's what it takes to find a cop when you need one.

## Free Park Shuttle Returns Late

This year, the Golden Gate Park Shuttle is scheduled to resume service on June 4. The shuttle will operate for its fifth year on weekends and holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. until December 18. Starting simultaneously at McLaren Lodge on the eastern edge of the Park and at the Beach Chalet at Ocean Beach, shuttles pick up passengers at approximately 15-minute intervals at 15 locations throughout the Park, several of which conveniently connect to Muni bus stops.

The starting time is later this year, because the Concourse Authority (CA), which operates the free shuttle service, wanted the shuttle to be in service when the de Young Museum opens in October 2005 and did not have money to run the extra weeks.

The funding for the pilot project for the shuttle will run out this year. The CA has not found funding yet for next year but is hopeful that state, local or private support will be identified to continue this popular, convenient and environmentally friendly service. "The Free Park Shuttle helps mitigate traffic congestion and ensures that visitors are able to enjoy the Park's many attractions, while reducing the impact of automobiles on Golden Gate Park and the environment," said Mike Ellzey, executive director of the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority.

The 2005 shuttle route map is available on the Concourse Authority's web site, [www.goldengateparkconcourse.org](http://www.goldengateparkconcourse.org).

—Joan Downey

## State Measure to Legalize Sidewalk Parking Withdrawn

The recent State legislation (SB810), introduced by Jackie Speier, would have enabled jurisdictions to allow all cars to park on the sidewalk from dusk until 8:00 a.m. and cars with disability placards to park there 24 hours a day, as long as a minimum of 5 feet was left for pedestrians "to get by."

Due to strong pressure from Walk San Francisco, Senior Action Network, the California Council of the Blind, the SFBC, and other advocates, Senator Speier withdrew SB 810 stating that, "After the bill was introduced, phone calls and e-mails indicated that there was



*Parking on sidewalks impedes the passage of all pedestrians, but particularly seniors and disabled people. It leaves oil on the walkway and stresses the pavement.*

concern about whether it would work as intended. I've therefore decided to drop the bill and to focus on other issues of concern to my constituents." If you're interested in pedestrian advocacy, go to [www.walksf.org](http://www.walksf.org) or call 290-2405.

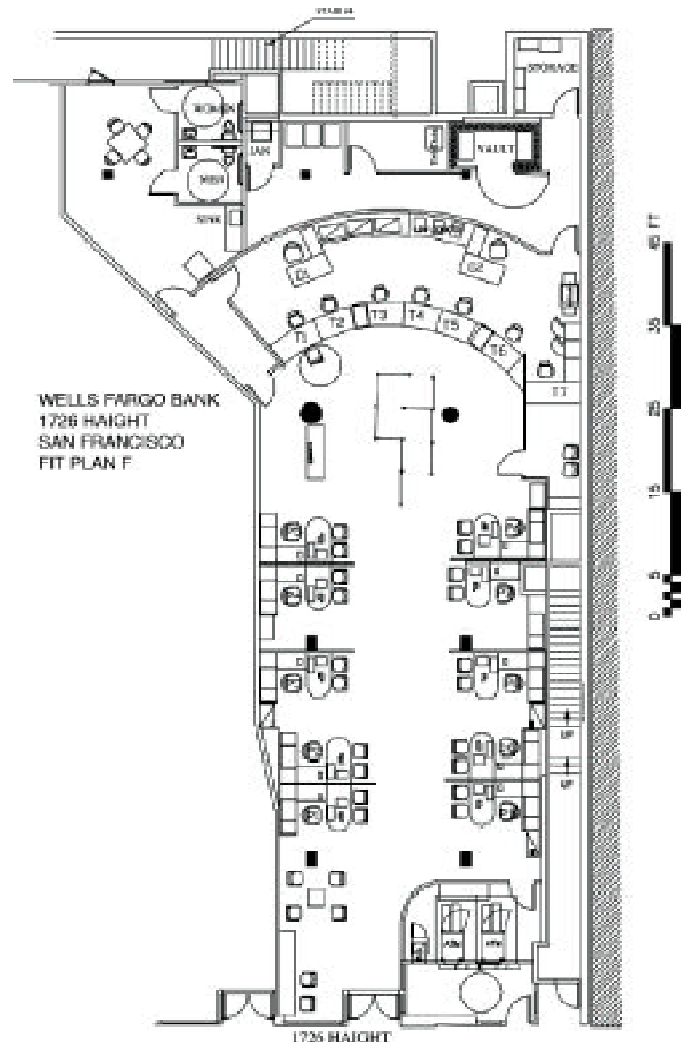
## Wells Fargo Drafts Plans

Representatives of Wells Fargo Bank recently met with the CVIA board to discuss the upcoming opening of a new branch on Haight St. District Manager David Bowik and his assistant, Andrew Esposito, said that current plans for the full-service bank located near the corner of Haight and Cole, in the new Brennan building, call for seven teller stations, with one dedicated to merchant transactions. There are also plans for ten "bankers" desks, filled by a mixture of personal bankers, business bankers, an investment person (financial consultant) and a home mortgage representative.

As to who will be staffing these teller stations and bankers' desks is anyone's guess. The position of manager, key to the success of the bank's operation in our unique neighborhood, is currently posted for Wells Fargo applicants. Bowik indicates that they would like, as much as possible, to staff the branch with people who live in, or have a history in, the Haight.

Wells intends to be a good neighbor. They have already contacted several organizations to pledge contributions, hosted a "preview night," and are planning a gala (well, for bankers) grand opening in the Fall.

—Karen Crommie



## CVIA Board Actions

The following is a summary of what took place at the last three CVIA board meetings. 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](mailto:cviasf@aol.com) or call 431-1414 to learn the location.

### February

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together, the Kezar Advisory Committee and the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods.
- Discussed the details of the new Wells Fargo branch to be opened in early fall at 1726 Haight St. with District Manager David Bowik and Andrew Esposto.
- Heard report from Joan Downey on the controversy regarding a southern entrance to the DeYoung Museum underground garage. Also the jeopardy of Concourse trees during surface construction.
- Agreed to set up meeting with Cole Merchants to discuss the mounting traffic problems on Cole Street. Joan Downey to contact DPT planner Jerry Robbins.
- Treasurer reported gifts from Les Silverman, Irv Govin and John Manning.

### March

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together, Kezar Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods.
- Received update from Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi on the legislation he has prioritized. Among them, moving the election of public defender to November instead of at the June Primary; impact of the pervasive use of plastic bags on the environment; providing incentives to using of smaller cars; allowing the Board of Supervisors to choose more commissioners. Aide Cheryl Brodie gave a status report on the proposed Masonic Ave. toilet: plans are to move it closer to Haight St. and further away from the nearby residential building entrance.

### April

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates to 5Together, Kezar Advisory Committee and the CSFN.
- Heard update on law enforcement issues from Captain John Ehrlich of Park Station. Topics ranged from drug sales at Alvord Lake to the management crisis at Martin Luther King/Marcus Garvey public housing. There are plans for the monthly Police Community Forums to move location from the Park Station to other venues in the Park District.
- Discussed the new Skateboard Plan which recommends skateboarders be allowed to move on sidewalks. Agreed that a letter protesting this part of the plan be sent to the commission. Richard Shadoian to draft letter. (Note: See clarification on pg. 3.)
- Joan Downey announced that all Cole Street merchants have been invited to a meeting to discuss the double-parking problem which impedes Muni and anyone else trying to navigate Cole St. Meeting is set for Thursday April 13 at 4:00 at The BurgerMeister.

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

## Families Celebrate the Kevin Collins Garden Project

If you were one of the lucky people who noticed the posters, or received a personal invitation, via a garden shovel, you were likely to have attended this celebration on a glorious spring day in San Francisco. About 150 Cole Valley residents and friends showed up on April 22 to celebrate at the Panhandle Playground. The reason for the party was to reach out to the community around the Kevin Collins Garden Project. Thanks to a grant from First Five,\* the party was a wonderful neighborhood gathering.

The Kevin Collins Garden Project, started by Belvedere Montessori School, is located just outside the playground fence. It is an organic garden of flowers, vegetables (and all the ingredients of potato soup.) The purpose of the garden is for schools and families with small children to learn the pleasure of growing things. A small grant from Friends of Rec and Park was used to plant the first beds



*Neighborhood families gathered at the small Panhandle garden project for an afternoon of music, play and picnic lunch.*

The project is led by Cole Valley residents Barbara Alexander and Kristi Coale of Belvedere Montessori. The students and teachers did art projects, designed the T-shirts, posters and signs for the garden and recycling.

At Sunday's party, there was a painting project for the kids set up along the fence. Planting activities and lessons on composting in a home worm bin kept the children busy for hours. Everyone was given a KC Garden T-shirt and an organic box lunch made by Harvest Urban Market. Everything in the lunch was compostable or recyclable. A jazz quartet from Urban High School was led by Cole Valley resident Marc Baum.

Over and over, you heard families say what a wonderful time they had, proving once again that this is a great neighborhood in which to raise kids. To learn more or to make a donation to the project go to [www.kcgardening.org](http://www.kcgardening.org).

—Judith Mahnke

*\*First Five is funded by the Prop 10 cigarette tax that supports early childhood education programs.*



**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.**

## Man vs. Dog (Owners)

Okay, dog owners; we know you love your dogs as much as many of us love our children, but, if you expect us to love your dogs too, we need some common courtesies.

**Pet Peeve #1: Dog Poop.** Many of us are really angry about the dog feces on our sidewalks, in front of our homes, and around our trees. It's an all too common scene to see a pet relieving itself and the owner just happening to be looking the other way. If the owner thinks no one is watching, they often fail to pick up that pesky pile. The filthy sidewalks, streets and tree areas are proof of my point.



*Responsible dog owners are often forced to pay the price for those who do not keep their dogs under control.*

Look, if it's not you—then who is it? Maybe it is those irresponsible Noe Valley dog owners who import their pets in to befoul our neighborhood. Grattan School playground, which had been a great hang for us kid people, is now closed evenings and weekends. Why? The envelope please. And the culprit is, dog poop. The principal says that when teachers arrive in the morning, they must clean up multiple dog messes in the schoolyard. When polite signs were put up to discourage this lapse of social responsibility, the signs were torn down over and over, and the pooping continued.

**Pet Peeve #2: Constant Barking.** How is it okay to leave your constantly barking dog outside the Bakery de Cole for an hour as you casually sip a bowl of latte? Perhaps making an occasional visit outside to your dog might discourage this behavior. Then there's the constantly barking dog or dogs in a Mercedes SUV with the window rolled down gnashing their teeth and barking at each passerby. And, how about that cute little doggie in the apartment window that's barking the entire day while his owner is gone? In a densely populated area such as Cole Valley, your dog can disturb hundreds of people.

**Pet Peeve #3: No Leash.** How many times have you seen this one? The child walks boldly up to the non-tethered pit-bull. The parent yanks the kid away. The dog owner looking personally insulted and says, "Oh, he's as gentle as a mouse," and then, after the dog snaps at the child, it's the confused, "Oh wow, he's never done that before." Use a leash; it's the law.

So, if you dog owners want the rest of us to love your dogs, too, you are going to have to start policing each other. We want to like you and your dogs, but you are making it difficult.

—Marc Baum

*Ed. note: The problem is that anyone reading this newsletter is unlikely to be among the offenders. Rebuttal, anyone?*

### CVIA Officers

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

## Haight Ashbury Free Clinics Continue Their Reorganization

The Haight Ashbury Free Clinics are still struggling to keep going in the grim aftermath of last year's swindle of nearly a million dollars by a former chief financial officer. The Clinics are operating at a deficit and are receiving financial guidance from the Department of Public Health's chief financial officer, Gregg Sass, who recently recommended that the city's Health Commission approve two contracts to the Clinics, totaling over \$500,000, for services to persons with HIV/AIDS, in order to continue the programs and pay staff.

Part of the Clinics' reorganization plan is the movement of



*Dr. Darryl Inaba has moved from Executive Director to President of HAFC.*

Dr. Darryl Inaba, former executive director, to the position of president, while bringing in John Eckstrom as interim CEO. Anticipated cuts from the state and county healthcare budgets, which provide 80% of the annual \$14 million budget, is putting further strain on the venerable institution that grew out of the needs of youth in the Haight in the 60s but has expanded to serve a widely diverse population from all over the bay area in 22 health centers.

HAFC Board of Directors chairman Eric Flowers, at a recent Health Commission meeting, said that "the Board is fully aware of the operational and structural issues facing the agency," and that "the form of governance needs to be made more current." He is taking steps to bring professionals with the time and skill sets to the board, and to make the directors "understand the business that HAFC is in." In addition to having a reputation for fiscal untidiness, the Clinics have been criticized for trying to be all things to all people and accepting grants and subsidies which push them beyond their mission.

They are currently evaluating all their contracts to identify services that do not fit economically with the Clinics' capabilities, and looking for opportunities to make existing programs more viable. Priorities include: refortifying the board; working with bridge financing; restructuring balance sheets to give more flexibility; and fundraising. Because the city relies on them to fulfill a portion of their overall healthcare delivery to the city's uninsured, the Free Clinics can count on receiving continuing support from the public sector.

—Karen Crommie

## Save Time With NextBus

If you use Muni, you should know about NextBus, the system that provides accurate real-time arrival information—not schedules—at some stops and on the internet. Check out [Nextbus.com](http://Nextbus.com) to see the arrival times of the next 3 busses you want to catch so that you can wait at home until the last minute. On their website, you can watch the busses move through their route, and learn how you can set up your cell phone to get the NextBus information.

The 24-Divisadero and 33-Stanyan trolley lines have been added to the 22-Fillmore and all Metro lines (J, K, L, M, N-Judah) for NextBus. Muni plans to have the entire fleet on NextBus within the next two years.

—Joan Downey

# More Changes on Concourse

Park watchdog Chris Duderstadt takes exception to plans by the Fine Arts Museums Board to reposition a venerable piece of statuary in Golden Gate Park's concourse after completion of the underground garage. Says Chris, "Again they've insisted that our history be rewritten and that the statue of Leonidas be rotated 180 degrees when replaced in the Concourse.



Photo courtesy Chris Duderstadt

"Located on the east side of Tea Garden Drive, opposite the de Young Museum site, this bronze sculpture of a nude gladiator with raised sword, was created in 1881 by sculptor Guillaume Geefs and was cast in Belgium. The statue was placed there in August 1893 to mark the beginning of construction work for the Midwinter Fair. Why would they demand he be turned to face into a palm tree? Is

it that they are offended by his modest manhood? Why not a fig leaf, or boxers or briefs? Or a chisel, like their Puritan forefathers?

"These are self appointed guardians of *Fine Art* that we entrust with the protection of our city's fine art and history."

# Mayor Newsom Vindicated

The California Court of Appeals recently ruled that the mayor's Care Not Cash program is valid and fully enforceable, despite challenges that the initiative was flawed due to funding provisions. The voter-approved measure was to adopt a "Housing First" approach combined with supportive services to homeless and indigent San Franciscans in lieu of cash grants through General Assistance. Since the implementation of Care not Cash, the city has reported a 41 percent decline in homeless individuals on the streets since the last count in 2002. Citywide, the overall number of homeless people on city streets has declined 28 percent. The Human Services Agency reports that 766 people have been housed as a result of Care Not Cash. There have been a total of 1,031 housing referral offers made through Care Not Cash, and there are currently 793 SRO units being funded by the program.



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—David Carrington Miree



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

Although meetings usually take place at Park Police Station (1899 Waller St. at Stanyan), some are held at other locations. Call first to check.

**May 26, June 30, July 28**

Call Sgt. Mike Niland to verify location: 242-3032

# Postscripts

Light a candle for **Captain Jim Dudley**. The popular and effective former head of Park District Station has been summarily reassigned from his current post as captain of the tactical unit because of a



padlocked refrigerator loaded with beer found in a back room. Coming on the heels of the recent firehouse scandal, there was little chance to explain. The fact that the tac squad is located way out at the old Hunters Point Naval Shipyard might explain why after-duty libations were available. It brings to mind an incident a few years ago. Dudley had been helping CVIA plant trees in Cole Valley all morning. When it was time for lunch in the park, someone suggested getting beer to go with

the sandwiches and Dudley said, pleasantly but firmly, "I have to tell you that if you're going to have liquor, I'm out of here."

\*\*\*

**Muni** has made studies and says that Haight Street has more than its fair share of bus service headed downtown. They're trying to close a \$57 million gap so, unless there's an unexpected windfall, beginning in September, the **7-Haight** bus will only operate during peak hours. The service cuts will affect other lines and, combined, will save Muni some \$11,000. In addition, fares all over the city will go from \$1.25 to \$1.50, and 200 full- and part-time drivers will be laid off.

\*\*\*



**Shoe Biz**, one of the Haight's flashier booteries, is in hot water with the **Planning Department** for installing an elevator without a permit. Last year, they received a variance to do business on the second floor of their building at 1430 Haight, a space zoned for residential use. The elevator, a stylish, glass-encased contraption, appeared soon after. But they overlooked the nicety of getting a permit first. City Hall has a thing about that. So, although nothing was deemed out of code, the required variance

was denied at the Planning Commission meeting on April 21.

\*\*\*

**Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi's** legislation to put a surcharge on single-use plastic bags caused an outcry from nearly all quarters, but before you join in, realize that even if a **17 cents surcharge** is not the answer, there is a strong case to be made for limiting their use. Apart from the threat to the marine environment (100,000 whales seals and turtles and countless fish worldwide each year), the cost to the city for cleaning up and disposing of plastic bags is estimated at \$8 million annually. Californians consume more than 27 billion one-time use plastic grocery bags annually, and each takes an estimated 1000 years to break down. So let's come up with some incentives for reusable bags.





Hats off to the **Urban High School** which has received a grant from the **Museum of the City of San Francisco** to document the history of the old firehouse at 1152 Oak Street. It was temporarily rescued from the auction block as the San Francisco Fire Department tried to remedy its budget shortfall. Twenty Urban High School students (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades) will research, not only the history of Firehouse No. 21, but the neighborhood it served and the firefighters who worked there. The grant is part of a group of \$10,000 "Save Our History" community preservation grants funded by The History Channel to local museums.

\*\*\*

When considering the fate of the De Avila Elementary School *property*, a recent comment by Supervisor Mirkarimi comes to mind. Speaking about the sale of the former UC Extension campus at Haight and Laguna, he asked, "What is owed a community when a piece of land, that has enjoyed tax exempt status for many years, is sold to a private developer? Shouldn't the public be compensated in some way for all that lost tax money?" Another question that arises is, when De Avila ceases to be a school, can the long-posed Decaux toilet be reinstalled in the extra-wide sidewalk near its Haight Street entrance? It was initially installed there a few years ago, but was quickly removed because the school thought it would attract undesirables. This would break the deadlock over its present "permitted" location in front of the entrance to a residential building.

\*\*\*



The affable **Daniel Homsey** has been named director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS). It was widely expected since he did such a stellar job as manager of constituent relations. A third-generation San Franciscan, this irrepressible can-do guy scatters his business cards like fertilizer and seems to genuinely love solving problems. He can be reached at 554-7114 or, as he prefers, at [daniel.homsey@sfgov.org](mailto:daniel.homsey@sfgov.org). You might remember that MONS director was the post once held by Supervisor Bevan Dufty.

\*\*\*

The neighbors opposing the destruction of **450 Frederick** are making a last ditch effort to save the neglected Victorian for which a demolition permit has been granted. The owner is planning to replace it with a four-story, three-unit building, which he says, "will contain architectural details that will harmonize with the adjacent buildings." The neighbors base their objection on anticipated environmental impact resulting from 1) a change in land use, 2) diminution of visual quality and 3) loss of a cultural resource. As one looks at the sad little building one struggles to see it through the eyes of these well-meaning folks. We



have published articles giving full airing to the views of both the owners and the neighbors (May and August issues) and only hope the situation will be settled, one way or another, before the controversy moves into its second year.

\*\*\*

Cole Valley's **Craig Newmark** put another feather in his familiar



Photo: Eric Reisberg/AP

black cap when he was named among the world's 100 most influential people by **TIME magazine**. Time remarks, "**Craigslist** has clung to its original ethos, stubbornly remaining small, efficient and free of ads or user fees." The unassuming Newmark, who takes most breakfasts at Cole Street's **Reverie Café**, sold off a portion of his web marketplace, [craigslist.com](http://craigslist.com), last year to ebay. An estimated 8 million people in nearly 100 cities log-on every month. He didn't plan to be rich and famous but, well, there it is.

\*\*\*

After being under wraps for more than nine months, the stately Victorian at the corner of Waller and Masonic, owned by **Giovanni**



**Laccarino** and **Mike Bagatella**, was finally unveiled last month with fanfare and refreshments. The elaborate scaffolding that covered the building was removed, black netting dropped, and, voila!, the stunning restoration and another multicolored "painted lady" in lavender tones with generous portions of gold leaf was introduced to the neighbors. It proudly joins its sister buildings on a section of Waller Street that already featured the four adjacent flats, each bearing detail evoking a different season, which is becoming a regular stop for architecture aficionados.

\*\*\*

CVIA's vice-president **Richard Shadoian** (and former Board of Elections commissioner) took over the helm of **SF5Together** when former president **Cheryl Brodie** accepted a position with Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi's office. He will fill out her term until elections later this month. Richard will also be brought on to the Executive Board of the **Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods** as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president next month. (I understand he still has time for a private life too.)



\*\*\*

Dog owners tell me that our neighborhood has two locations in which it's perfectly legal for man's best friend to exercise off-leash: **Buena Vista Park** and **Corona Heights**. Well, actually, in the field adjacent to the Randall Museum (Roosevelt and Museum Way). Otherwise, the city says, walkies means leashes.

"I might not agree with you, but I'll always tell you the truth." That was our **District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi** speaking, and I guess it's true because the left-leaning, **Green Party** member recently revealed that he once owned a building in San Francisco and had (gasp) tenants—the kiss of death for a self-described "Progressive" and tenants rights advocate. He quickly added that the tenants were subsidized by Section 8 vouchers, which helped his conscience a bit. On another occasion he admitted that, last fall, his car was graced with a Denver Boot. Seems he was too busy to pay the mound of tickets accumulated during the campaign. Too much honesty?



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**Rec and Park's** plans for the long-awaited reconstruction of the **Panhandle** restrooms have finally been approved, but I'm still scratching my head over the \$120,000 estimate for constructing curb ramps



(for strollers, wheelchairs). **Commissioner Jim Lazarus** had wanted to know if the present restrooms couldn't just be repaired, something I've long wondered. This, as it turned out, didn't prove practical. Right now, **Rec and Park's Keith Kawamura** is working out details with the manufacturing firm supplying the prefabricated elements of the double-bathroom structure. We have only to wait.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to the **Panhandle Residents Organization – San Francisco (PROSF)** and, specifically **Christian Holmer**, for the well-



deserved recognition of the contribution made by their community e-mail message board. The commendation was issued by the **Board of Supervisors** on March 27, "In recognition of your dedication in providing the community an invaluable service with PROSF's operation of the home@prosf.org message board. PROSF provides a vital resource to our neighborhoods by encouraging prolific and stimulating dialogue."

There are almost 200 trees in the band **Concourse** that are in jeopardy during the surface construction of the underground garage. Many were planted for the opening of the Bandshell in 1900. There is an ongoing attempt to protect them by getting landmark status. If you



Photo courtesy Chris Duderstadt

want to help, contact landscape architect **Katherine Howard** at 710-2402 or musicconcourse@earthlink.net, or write **Friends of the Music Concourse**, 717 9th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118.

\*\*\*

Cole Valley gardener **Ilie Gacau**, a CVIA member, was featured in an article by M.M. Acosta in the **Chronicle** a few Sundays ago (3-13-05). A contractor by profession, Gacau has transformed his long, narrow, down-slope lot on Carl Street into an exciting display of the plant varieties that are his special passion: clivia, brugmansia and abutilon. His kitchen counter is full of seedlings, his vacations are botany-oriented and he will speak at length (and in depth) about a wide range of gardening problems he has met and conquered. Now the whole city knows about him.



\*\*\*

Since his swearing in, **Supervisor Mirkarimi** has shown an authentic interest in **District 5** issues. He should be especially commended for introducing a measure to stop the widening of **Martin Luther King Drive**. By the way, if you want to meet the supervisor at an informal event, Mirkarimi is continuing the tradition of his predecessor, **Matt Gonzalez**, by giving up wall space in his large office to local artists. Opening receptions will occur on the third Friday of each month. For more information, contact the supervisor's aide, **Cheryl Brodie**, at 554-7630 or cheryl.brodie@sfgov.org.

\*\*\*

Staying home too much at night? There are lots of reasons to take a walk down Haight Street, maybe stopping for a Martini first at **Zam Zam**, and then on to the **Red Vic** to catch the award winning "Born Into Brothels" (May 22), or the fascinating documentary about Henry Darger, "In The Realm of the Senses" (May 25, 26). **The Booksmith** has a full schedule of author readings, most notable are comedian and actor Eric Bogosian (May 18) and that NPR favorite, David Sedaris (June 9). And you don't have to get into a car.

-Karen Crommie

# Letters to CVIA

*Ed. Note: While probing for a reason that producers of large park events routinely exceed the proscribed level of amplification and yet are allowed to return to Golden Gate Park year after year, Martin MacIntyre became aware that there was a pattern, not only of abusing the sound limits, but of failure to pay the statutory fees for park use. Even though he produced a body of evidence, using the Sunshine ordinance, the Rec and Park Commission has not acted.*

Dear CVIA:

On a tip from Christian Holmer of PROSF, I attended the Board of Supervisors' committee in charge of audits, chaired by Board President Aaron Peskin. I made my case for having a management performance audit of the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD).

Supervisor Peskin acknowledged that he had received my material, thanked me for my efforts and the committee proceeded to vote to audit RPD, even before the Department of Public Works or the Assessor's office.

Apparently, they also suspect something is rotten and think RPD will be a treasure trove of ineptitude. It was particularly satisfying because it was the result of a lot of hard work over many years and we have finally bypassed the inept and condescending Rec and Park Commission. Let's hope the Controller or the Budget Analyst does the job and gets to the bottom of all the shenanigans. I will continue to send in Sunshine Ordinance requests until the information we are seeking is uncovered and changes in the way RPD does business is achieved.

Martin L. MacIntyre

*Ed. Note: The following is the response to a letter in the last issue from Loic Nicolas suggesting Cole Street be closed to cars on Sunday.*

Dear CVIA,

This is a wonderful idea. Yes, every Sunday close Cole Street for one block. It would be so popular, once established, and could possibly lead to a farmers market, monthly street fair or, who knows?

Bottom line, we need an area such as you described and I completely support this. The only drawback would be people and their cars. The parking would be an issue but, perhaps if we got the school to open for parking every Sunday, the way they did for the Heart of Cole Street fair, it should work. Let's move on this.

Gloria Galindo

# 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

District	Telephone	Fax
1. Jake McGoldrick Jake.McGoldrick@sfgov.org	554-7410	554-7415
2. Michela Alioto-Pier Michela.Alioto@sfgov.org	554-7752	554-7483
3. Aaron Peskin Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org	554-7450	554-7454
4. Fiona Ma Fiona.Ma@sfgov.org	554-7460	554-7432
5. <b>Ross Mirkarimi</b> Ross.Mirkarimi@sfgov.org	<b>554-7630</b>	<b>554-7634</b>
6. Chris Daly Chris.Daly@sfgov.org	554-7970	554-7974
7. Sean Elsbernd Sean.Elsbernd@sfgov.org	554-6516	554-6546
8. Bevan Dufty Bevan.Dufty@sfgov.org	554-6968	554-6909
9. Tom Ammiano Tom.Ammiano@sfgov.org	554-5144	554-6255
10. Sophie Maxwell Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11. Gerardo Sandoval Gerardo.Sandoval@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

**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, 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.

Editor ..... Karen Crommie  
Production ..... David Crommie  
Editorial Assistance... Karen Heffernan, Carol Dahlstrom

### Cviasf@aol.com

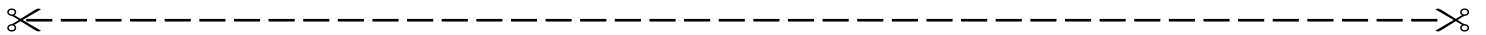
Please contact us by e-mail if you have an issue to bring up, a newsletter article, address change, or an update to your membership information. Send us *your* e-mail address if you want to be notified of upcoming meetings and events of importance to our neighborhood.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

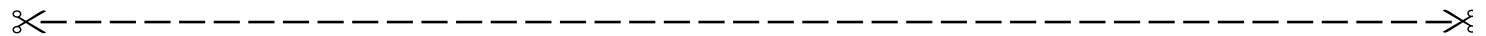
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

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**

**CVIASF@aol.com**