

# CVIA NEWS

COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Volume XXIII

SERVING ALL RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER HAIGHT ASHBURY

SPRING 2010

## Clash Over Public Access to Mt. Sutro from Stanyan St.

Cole Valley neighbors packed the auditorium of Grattan Elementary School on February 8 to hear a group of experts describe a plan, first introduced last June, to further restore the public hiking trails on Mt. Sutro and (this is the controversial part) reopen the long boarded up public access (trailhead) on Stanyan. The trail, originally built in the 1880s, curves through Rec and Park wilderness into the 63-acre Mt. Sutro Open Space Reserve owned by UCSF.

Whereas the prior meeting had raised concerns about homeless encampments and loss of privacy, this time the opposition united over the danger of fire. Stanyan Street homeowners were careful to separate this from the issue of reopening the trailhead, rather, what they wanted before anything else was done was a professional evaluation of the fire potential of the entire forest. Stanyan



CVIA president Lena Emmery expressed support for the Stanyan St. trailhead.

*Continued on Page 3, Column 1.*

## Scaled Down Whole Foods Market Gets Go-ahead

It may be anti-climatic, but, yes, this oft-postponed project is finally going forward at full tilt now that the Planning Department has approved the revised plans. If you nodded off during the long saga of this project on the corner of Haight and Stanyan, which went from a massive mixed use edifice with 62 residential units to simply an updated Cala Market, no one will blame you. For months we were dealing with Matt Holmes of Retail West and sporadic cryptic announcements by the Brennan family who own the site. Finally, we got the real deal. In spite of his representatives saying that the Texas based grocery chain could never make a profit in such a relatively small store, we now have impressively cool Londoner Glen W. Moon making the rounds of neighborhood organizations convincing everyone that he has been there and done that and we are not to worry: Whole Foods has everything under control.

Moon is the vice-president of store development for Northern California. In his talk to the CVIA board he summarized the plan. Retaining the old Cala footprint, the new store will be nearly identical to the recently opened Whole Foods in Noe Valley.

*Continued on Page 2, Column 2.*

## Look, Ma, We're On TV!

The media spotlight has been focused brightly on the Haight Ashbury's street population recently. These are the groups of young and not-so-young who sit on the sidewalk with dogs and bedrolls harassing passersby for change and, when unsuccessful, responding with sarcastic, even hostile remarks. They may not be dangerous but they certainly create a threatening atmosphere for anyone walking on Haight Street.

Grumblings started to increase as soon as it became clear that the normal summer influx had not diminished. The most common opener for neighbors meeting on Haight Street was, "Have you noticed how much worse it is?" Emotions gushed out at Park Station's December community forum. In response, Captain Teresa Barrett announced a pilot program with extra beat officers to patrol Haight Street. She also talked about an ordinance passed in Portland, Tacoma, and even Berkeley, prohibiting people from sitting



During the past three months Arthur Evans repeatedly called attention to the hostile environment on Haight Street. (Shown on left is John Rizzo, on right, Norman Larson.)

or lying on the street (sit-lie law). In a statement supporting such an ordinance, longtime resident Arthur Evans eloquently summarized the frustration of the neighbors. Little did he know how often he would be asked to repeat this in the weeks that followed. ☞

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### **Bay Guardian Refutes Chronicle**

In a KCBS story by Hank Plante, Evans praised the response of Captain Barrett in supporting a sit-lie law but criticized the seeming disregard of the issue by the city's politicians. Soon there was an article by SF Chronicle's C.W. Nevius on December 16 backing the measure, which, in turn, prompted a critical response in the SF Bay Guardian (no surprise there). This triggered a thoughtful letter from SF Police Chief George Gascón (are you staying with me here?) who said, "It is unfortunate that the Bay Guardian has taken the position expressed in your (sic) current editorial. I believe the majority of the people of San Francisco are no longer willing to quietly surrender their neighborhoods to street hooliganism."

### **Chamber of Commerce Weighs In**

Meanwhile, Andy Ross writing on SF Gate reported that Steve Falk, CEO of the SF Chamber of Commerce, was ready to back a sit-lie ordinance and that the board had already met with Chief Gascón. The SF Chronicle followed up with an editorial on December 23 saying, "Local mores about tolerance and acceptance have allowed a small group of belligerents to flourish. . . A sit-lie law isn't about giving the police leeway to sweep the streets of everyone who's homeless, poor or just looking for day labor. It's about giving the officers a way to arrest the bullies who block the streets and try to intimidate everyone else. . . It's great to be a 'tolerant' city, but residents and business owners everywhere are questioning why we tolerate aggressive behavior, drugs and gangs."

### **Commander Dudley Explains Need**

All this drew a standing-room-only crowd to the January Park Police Station community forum at which Captain Teresa Barrett told neighbors that she couldn't keep the extra beat officers much longer (they are pulled from other stations) and repeated her support for the enforcement tool of a sit-lie law. Commander James Dudley, a former Park Station captain, said, "Right now, the beat officers can do little more than check for dog licenses, open bottles and blocking the sidewalk." Other than that the police must have someone make a formal complaint and make a "citizen's arrest." Because of the fear of retaliation, few people are willing to do this.

### **Chronicle Op-ed Warns of Complications**

The Chronicle on January 19 printed an op-ed piece by Thomas Wong documenting the constitutional questions Portland and Berkeley have had with their sit-lie laws. Said Wong, "The 'road warriors,' as it turns out, are a group of a few hundred thugs who travel up and down the West Coast in an almost seasonal migration. They stay for a few months, harass a few residents and then move on to the next city. . . The "sit-lie" ordinance, however, is an overly broad, complicated and expensive option for fixing a very specific problem. . . . Portland experienced a problem with road warriors, and fixed it by installing benches, public restrooms and homeless shelters throughout designated sit-lie zones. Does the Haight have enough room for benches when people are already walking on streets to get around people sitting and lying on the sidewalk?"

### **Supervisor on Defensive**

During this period of time, a mail campaign flooded the office of District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi with requests for more involvement in the proposed "sit-lie" legislation. Mirkarimi had held to the position that there were enough laws on the books to enable the police to handle the situation. Wrote SF Examiner's Joshua Sabatini in a January 27 article, "(Mirkarimi) said 'misinformation' has been circulating, and he objected to the Police Department discussing the proposal in public meetings without members of the District Attorney's or City Attorney's offices to discuss the 'legal consequences.'"

### **SF Weekly Expresses Skepticism**

Not to be left out, Matt Smith of the SF Weekly lambasted the number of officers being pulled off other details to patrol a few blocks of Haight St. Said Smith, "The month-old diversion of officers to the Haight does not look like enforcement in the sense of a sincere government effort to stop bullies, junkies, dealers, runaways, and mentally ill people menacing locals and tourists. Rather, it strikes me as counterproductive grandstanding performed in advance of a political showdown over a pet cause of our new police chief."

In a KCBS interview on February 1, Mayor Newsom lent his support to the sit-lie ordinance. While Coalition on Homelessness director Jennifer Friedenback predictably responded, "It's just another way to criminalize people who are destitute." The next day, the sit-lie was discussed at the Police Commission. Reporting for the SF Examiner, Brent Begin quoted Commissioner Jim Hammer saying, "The problem is that no supervisor has come forward to pitch the idea, so commissioners don't really know what they're talking about."

That did it. Finally, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi scheduled a hearing on a citywide sit-lie law at the Public Safety Committee on March 1 (City Hall, Supervisors' Chambers, 10 a.m.)

—Karen Crommie

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### **Whole Foods, continued from page 1.**

They anticipate replacing the slab floor in order to run the updated mechanicals below the surface. They will also renovate the roof in order to provide more daylight and make it more energy efficient. Changing the location of the PG&E transformer and moving the main entrance to the right will be part of easing the daily



*Glen Moon (at far end of table) updates CVIA Board on process of transforming the old Cala Foods into a Whole Foods Market.*

loading operations. Using the timelines of the Noe Valley store, which took nine weeks for permits and opened nine months after construction began, Moon anticipates opening the Haight store before the end of the year.

Board members couldn't resist asking him about the flak generated by Whole Foods founder John Mackey's *Wall Street Journal* op-ed pronouncement against Obama's healthcare plan and the tell-all profile that quickly followed in *New Yorker* magazine. Moon smiled and admitted that Mackey was a very creative and unconventional fellow and left it at that.

—Karen Crommie

*Stanyan Trailhead, continued from page 1.*

Street patriarch Robert Laws said, "Where is the Fire Department? Why aren't they here tonight?" Alicia Noyola said, "What we object to is your priorities. The first step should be to make a comprehensive study of the fire risk for the homes on the edge of the forest."

The actual project, prosaically called the "Interior Greenbelt Historic Trail Restoration and Stanyan Street Trailhead Project," is described simply as 1) restoring the trail, 2) reopening the trailhead and 3) studying the latter's "enhancement" by changing grading, and planting shrubs as buffers to protect the privacy of the north side residence, which has lot line windows facing the public access. The cost is estimated at \$52,000, a far cry from the \$150,000 - \$200,000 mentioned at the prior hearing.

The meeting was run by Daniel Iacofano, partner of MIG, the management consulting firm hired by Rec and Park, to carry out the plan. He introduced project manager Marvin Yee of Rec and Park, forest ecologist/arborist Ray Moritz, and the director of the city's Natural Areas Program, Lisa Wayne, all of whom responded to issues raised at the meeting seven months before. Cole Valley attorney/author Michael Sullivan, speaking in his role as Rec and Park commissioner, explained the upcoming approval process of the project.

The CVIA board of directors, which voted unanimously to support restoring the trailhead, was represented at the meeting by president Lena Emmerly who said, "The Stanyan trailhead is a natural asset of Cole Valley and increasing public access is something we should all get behind."

Mt. Sutro Stewards founder Craig Dawson said, "Last week I saw several encampments on the mountain. Increasing public use of the hiking trails would make it uncomfortable for illegal campers. It's time for us to take back Sutro Forest."

The project is expected to be formally introduced at the Rec and Park Commission on March 4 (City Hall, Room 416, 4 p.m. ).

—Karen Crommie

## "Clean Cole Street" Continues

The Clean Cole Street project will continue for another year thanks to our committed contributors.

CleanScapes again lowered their fee to \$900 per month. We reduced their area of service by eliminating the area on Carl Street in front of Eos, Mane Attraction, and Lavande.

Photographer Loic Nichols, generously took pictures of Cole Valley kids with Santa to raise funds for the Clean Cole Street project. Because of his fine work, \$1,245 was added to the fund. CVIA donated \$2,000 from proceeds from the 2009 Cole Valley Fair. Our anonymous donor, once again, generously agreed to make up the difference, which is over \$4,000 this year.

Here are the participating merchants for the 2010:

- Alpha Market \$350
- Bambino's Ristorante \$350
- BurgerMeister \$350
- Cole Cleaners \$350
- Cole Garage \$350
- Cole Hardware \$500
- Cole Valley Fitness \$350
- Crepes on Cole \$400
- La Boulange de Cole \$350
- Postal Chase \$350



—Joan Downey

## Looking at San Francisco Skateboard Parks

Recently, I went with two other people to view the two existing skateboard parks and two other locations where skateboard parks have been proposed. What all these four locations have in common is that they are far away from any homes or businesses, unlike the proposed Waller Street location. The four locations were also situated in such a way that no neighbors would be impacted by the skateboarders traveling to and from the park. If the current plans are approved, Waller Street would become a skateboard thoroughfare.

Another thing that stood out for me in viewing the two skateboard parks was the amount of graffiti that covered large portions



Photo: Lorrie French

*Potrero del Sol - La Raza Skate Park, located on San Bruno Avenue, is plagued with graffiti.*

of the concrete structures, as well as a depressing prison-like fence that encircled it. Since these two locations are both in city parks, it is more than apparent that Rec and Park has neither the will nor the capability to keep these existing skateboard parks graffiti free. I doubt adding another skateboarding location would improve their record.

The SF Skateboarding Association has stated on its website that one of their goals for 2010 (while waiting for approval of a



Photo: Lorrie French

*Crocker-Amazon Skate Park also attracts graffiti vandals.*

permanent structure) is to place a "storage unit at Golden Gate Park's Waller Street for weekend skate days. The SF skate club will use these ramps for lessons and general public skating on Saturdays and Sundays when weather permits." They would also like to use the space for "events and fundraisers" for the SFSA.

I fear they are chomping at the bit in order to claim their territorial rights to the Waller Street location. Even if we succeeded in having the long sought after Farmers Market at that location, the experience of shopping and meeting with our neighbors would be greatly diminished if we had to deal with the banging and clatter of skateboarders sharing that same site. This also put the proposed Winter outdoor ice skating rink in question. For all of these reasons, I applaud CVIA for taking a stand against the skateboard park at this location.

—Marianne Hesse

## Buena Vista Park Celebrates

Over 50 Buena Vista Park supporters enjoyed a break from a week of heavy rains on Saturday morning, January 23, when they attended the official ribbon-cutting at the park's recently-completed Southeast Hillside Erosion Control Project. Performers from Urban School's Circus Club entertained with stilt walking and gymnastics as attendees gathered.

The \$2.6 million project features newly-opened panoramic views of the south and east bay from an ADA-accessible resin-based path (see photos at <http://www.sspco.com/pdf/2168.011509.pdf>), a new stairway from the street along Buena Vista East leading up to the park's summit, landscaping with all native California



BVNA's Richard Magary is flanked by major park supporters, including, Supervisors Ross Mirkarimi (second from left) and Bevan Dufty (second from right) as they cut a ribbon symbolizing the project's completion.

drought-tolerant plants, a new irrigation system, and several new stone walls that match historic WPA-era stonework in other areas of the 36 acre Park.

District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty (the park is in his district) and District 5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi each presented Certificates of Honor from the Board of Supervisors to the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association (BVNA) and Friends of Buena Vista Park (FoBVP) for its (sic) role in the project, providing community input during planning and advocacy for the project over more than ten years. City Treasurer/Tax Collector Jose Cisneros, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services director Mike Farrah, newly-appointed S.F. Rec and Park Commission President Mark Buell, and Commissioner Michael Sullivan were also on hand to offer congratulations.

During the Ceremony, S.F. Rec and Park general manager Phil Ginsburg, announced Phase II of the project, funded by about \$280,000 of grants from the State of California's Land and Water Conservation Fund and the San Francisco Conservation Corps. The added work, which will start in Spring 2010, includes renovation and improved ADA access to a popular sidewalk-level lawn area along Buena Vista East and additional trail work that will extend the Project toward the park's popular Duboce Steps entry.

BVNA Steering Committee Chair Richard Magary thanked planning and project management staff from Rec and Park, DPW's Landscape Architecture Departments, the park's gardening staff for their continued hard work, and the dozens of neighbors and other park supporters for giving countless hours of their personal time to help with planning and advocacy for the project. He also announced the launch of the 2010 Buena Vista Park Fundraising Campaign for new benches, community bulletin boards, and other park amenities. For more information, contact BVNA at [Info@BVNASF.com](mailto:Info@BVNASF.com) or 431-2359.

—Richard Magary, BVNA

## HAIA Picks Cafe Deluxe to Introduce Website

The Haight Ashbury Improvement Association had the good sense to tap one of the Haight's classic venues for the introduction of its new website on January 31. Club Deluxe is a friendly neighborhood bar, jazz club, comedy club that serves a fabulous Italian style



CVIA president Lena Emmery congratulates HAIA president Ted Loewenberg on the launching of their new website.

thin-crust pizza by chef Giovanni Iaccarino. It has long attracted a crowd that favors pork pie hats, nylons with seams and Doris Day over...well, Lady Gaga? Jay Johnson has owned the watering hole for twenty-five years and sings Bossa Nova and old favorites with a jazz combo on Sunday nights beginning at 10 p.m. As HAIA members enjoyed pizza with arrugula, spinach and pesto, president Ted Loewenberg guided them through the stunning website projected on the wall. Web designer David Drabkin anxiously looked on like a proud poppa. Check it out at <http://haia-sf.com>.



Cole Hardware for the soul.

CVIA is now a Community Partner with Cole Hardware. Our number is 21369. If you choose, you can mention this number, or CVIA, when you shop at Cole Hardware and

10% of your purchase will come to CVIA in the form of a Gift Card that we will use to help fund our community activities.

### Muni Summit

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010, 8:15 a.m.

Registration and Coffee / Breakfast 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Solving Muni's Problems: A Fresh Discussion by  
Community-based Organizations

Women's Building, 3543 18th Street (between  
Valencia and Guerrero Streets).

## News from the Booksmith

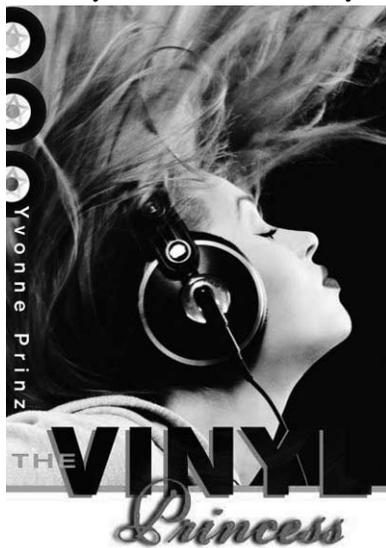
Whoa! We have no idea where the fall went and suddenly we are in 2010. Between the remodel at the bookstore, the hiring and training of many new staff members, and then the holiday season – we had a busy few months here at the Booksmith. We have been getting very positive comments from many of you about how much you like the new store layout – thanks for all the feedback!

We are excited to report we have several new promising booksellers on staff. After an extensive search, we found a new general manager and head buyer for the Booksmith. Rachel Meier comes to us from Bookshop Santa Cruz where she worked for six years and held a variety of management and buying responsibilities. She recently finished her Master of Fine Arts from USF. Among her many accomplishments, one that impressed us most was that she started the unique online book recommendation service [www.readafuckingbook.com](http://www.readafuckingbook.com) aimed at exposing 20- and 30-somethings to great literature. Rachel is a through-and-through New Yorker (living in exile, she adds). She loves pizza and books about food. She also loves literary fiction, books about urban planning, bee keeping, or just about anything, really. It is her life-long goal to find a book for everyone she meets. And she reads ferociously – about a book a day! How many did you read in 2009?

In other exciting news, we were invited by the editor of *Huffington Post's* new Book section to write a regular column. We had been thinking of starting a blog to share our bookselling adventure stories and the timing turned out great as Praveen had just enrolled in a non-fiction writing course at the San Francisco Writers' Grotto. We have been writing at *HuffPost* since October and our columns have covered a range of topics from why we quit our cushy jobs to buy the Booksmith, to why independent bookselling needs to be reinvented. In our typical hard-hitting style we have also critiqued newspapers for shallow reporting, and provided examples of how bookstores can successfully compete with Amazon. You can find the columns by typing in this shortened url into your web browsers... <http://tinyurl.com/yez9xkj>

As always, we have some great events coming up at the Booksmith. On February 18, Amoeba Records founder Yvonne Prinz will give a talk about her new book "The Vinyl Princess." On February 22,

food writer and blogger Tara Austen Weaver will share her uproarious, firsthand account of what happens when a lifelong vegetarian enters the mysterious world of Chateaubriands and London Broils. On February 27, join us for the first ever celebration of Magazine Day, a nationwide holiday dedicated to magazines and catching up on the ones you haven't discovered yet. The Found in Translation bookclub is back in action and will be meeting on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the bookstore for spirited conversation about some of the newest writers to hit the U.S. shelves from all over the globe. On February 23, the bookclub will discuss the book "Yalo" written by one of the Arab world's leading authors Elias Khoury. The Booksmith Bookswap continues to be a smashing success winning rave reviews



from participants and the media including the *New York Times*. The next two Bookswaps are scheduled for March 5 and May 7. Also coming to the Booksmith: Joe Hill (March 4), local favorite Cara Black (March 15), Arthur Phillips (March 30), Yann Martel (April 21), Dan Clowes (May 13), and Laura Fraser (June 3).

Please visit [www.booksmith.com](http://www.booksmith.com) for a complete listing of our events.

—Praveen Madan and Christin Evans

## Park Library to Party Again

The celebration of Park Branch Library's 100th anniversary last October was an enormous success. It ran from morning until closing time with food, live music, story telling, crafts projects, a stunning commemorative guest book, and a slide show of historic photos. But there's another party coming up: a somewhat gentler,



Century old Park Branch on Page St. (between Cole and Shrader) is San Francisco's oldest continuously operating library.

quieter "farewell" to the library. On February 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. there will be an open house as we all take one last look at our beloved old branch before it closes for a year long renovation.

A group of volunteers, organized by Mary Abler of the Friends of the SF Public Library, met on January 21 to discuss plans for the party, and more important, the upcoming fundraising campaign to pay for the interior appointments that will be needed for the library's reopening. The committee is made up of Kris Ashley, Karen and David Crommie, David Gregory, Ellen Huppert, Karen Jewett, Rebecca Newton, branch head librarian Cathy Delneo and Darice Murray-McKay, also a librarian at Park Branch. With an estimated goal of \$500,000, the committee will be looking for creative fundraising ideas to nudge neighborhood residents into opening their checkbooks. The Branch Library Renovation Bond will cover the upgrading of the branch but not the chairs, shelves, desks, light fixtures or computers. That part is up to us.

If you would like to help with either the closing party on February 27 or with the longer range fund-raising effort please contact Mary and get on the notification list for the next meeting. Let's make sure the Park Branch both closes and reopens in grand style. Mary's contact numbers are (415) 626-7512 ext. 107 or [mary.abler@friendssfpl.org](mailto:mary.abler@friendssfpl.org)

## CVIA Board Minutes

The following is a summary of what took place at CVIA board meetings over the last two months. Those wishing to bring a neighborhood issue before the Board are welcome to do so. Meetings occur the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the home of a member. Call 681-0681 to learn the location.

### January

Location: Home of Carole Glosenger. Date: January 4, 2010

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed Andrea Amaraggi (FOTH), Glenn Moon (Whole Foods VP of store development) and Nicole Watt (Whole Foods Market in-store educator).

- Andrea Amaraggi described the work of Friends of the Haight, recently organized to oppose the building of a skateboard park on Waller and Stanyan streets. Their goal is to inform neighbors of the plan, already approved by Rec and Park; to circulate a petition to be signed by neighbors opposing the park; and to make the Rec and Park Commission and the Board of Supervisors aware of the amount of neighborhood opposition. Rec and Park has already pledged \$80,000 to have a design submitted and estimates the cost of construction at \$2 million.

- Motion passed to contact the CVIA membership regarding adding their names to the petition. Amaraggi to send all information to Joan Downey, who will send out the announcement.

- Glenn Moon gave a brief description of the history and revised plans for a Whole Foods Market in the former Cala Foods location at Stanyan and Haight streets. (See article on Page 1.)

Moon agreed that Whole Foods' presence at a booth at the Cole Valley Fair (Sept. 26) would be an important way to inform Cole Valley residents about the imminent store opening and the approximately 150 jobs that will be available.

- Treasurer Joan Downey reported CVIA's balance as \$1,050.70, with \$17,547 in the Cole Valley Fair account (less \$4,000 of city charges still outstanding), and \$1,374 in the Clean Cole Street (daily sidewalk cleaning) account. Proceeds from the Santa on Cole Street photo project were \$1,244, earmarked for Clean Cole. Photographer Loic Nicolas generously turned over all profits to CVIA.

- Motion passed: To give a \$100 gift certificate to Ristorante Bambino to Loic Nicolas in appreciation. (Joan Downey to purchase and deliver.)

- Ten merchants have pledged to participate in the Clean Cole Street campaign. (See article on Page 3.)

- Motion passed: To make our donations twice yearly and to keep a reserve of \$7,000 as seed money for the 2010 Cole Valley Fair. The first distribution to consist of: \$500 additional to the Park Branch Library renovation fund; \$1,000 toward the annual CleanScapes fee; and \$1,000 to the Grattan School library. The second disbursement will be voted on at the July 5 meeting.

- Motion passed: A letter will be sent to owner of Eos building (Mr. Mainzer) that the tenants of that building (who already pay him for sidewalk cleaning as part of their triple A lease) will not be included in the CleanScapes daily cleaning, since they have all ended their participation in the community program.

- Joan reported that her outreach to 150 residents to participate in a proposed expanded street cleaning area resulted in only three responses - not contiguous to current cleaning boundary, nor enough to increase the service. Their checks will be returned.

- Motion passed: Shannon Cooper Hock accepted an invitation to join the CVIA Board of Directors. Her appointment passed unanimously and she was welcomed by all.

- After discussion it was agreed that pricing of fair booths to non-profit agencies would be left to the discretion of fair organizer, Joan Downey.

- James Judge, Cole Valley resident living near Muni Park (Cole and Carl) has requested another community meeting with the police regarding the vagrants hanging out at night in that pocket park: an ongoing problem.

- Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

### February

Location: Home of Lena Emmery and Chuck Canepa. Date: February 1, 2010.

- Reviewed last meeting's resolutions, discussed current Haight issues, heard reports from committee heads and from delegates the Kezar Stadium Advisory Committee and the Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods. Welcomed members Sigrid Schafmann, Patrick Jennings, Native Oaks Woodland volunteer organizer Rob Bakewell and Supervisor Mirkarimi's aide Vallie Brown.

- Treasurer's report was postponed until return of treasurer Joan Downey. President Lena Emmery reported that a year-end audit of CVIA's accounts showed a double donation by Wells Fargo Bank toward the 2008 Cole Valley Fair. Lena will speak to WFB officer about returning it or contributing it to their support of the 2010 Fair.

- Karen Crommie, CVIA's delegate to the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods reported on the appearance of Chief Gascón at the CSFN's January meeting talking about his support of the proposed legislation prohibiting sitting or lying on the sidewalk (sit-lie law).

- Motion passed unanimously to support a sit-lie law.

- Reviewed draft response written by Marianne Hesse to respond to a request by the SF Bay Guardian regarding reasons for CVIA's opposition to the skateboard park (Waller & Stanyan).

- Vallie Brown, Supervisor Mirkarimi aide, spoke about the upcoming hearing being held at the Public Safety Committee on March 1 at 10 a.m. to fully explore the consequences, (some unexpected) of instituting a sit-lie law in San Francisco. The city of Berkeley, which has succeeded in passing a ban on lying (not sitting) on the sidewalks, has been forced to increase footbeat officers to enforce the legislation and also provide benches on sidewalks.

- Lena Emmery announced her appointment by Captain Teresa Barrett to Park Station's Police Advisory Committee.

- David Crommie announced his recent appointment to the Department of Public Works' Graffiti Advisory Board to represent San Francisco Beautiful seat.

- Discussed names of possible new accountants. Lena will contact the office of Francine Prophet.

- Board member Shannon Cooper Hoch agreed to chair the music committee for the 2010 Cole Valley Fair. Other members of the committee are Carole Glosenger, Amy Blakeley and David Crommie. They will review audition tapes, distribute invitations and confirmations, set up performance schedule, assign "stages," etc.

- Rob Bakewell reported on the improvements in the east end of Golden Gate Park, particularly the Horseshoe Courts including a \$30,000 matching grant from the Park Bond B fund to The Guardsmen. Under the leadership of Peter Zepponi (Zepponi Architects) and Ted Bartlett, both Guardsmen members, more than 40 truckloads of weeds, black acacia saplings, hundreds of hypodermic needles, boxes of live bullets and human excrement have been removed from

the area. New native plants (200) have been put in place and the enormous horse barn relief is in the process of being restored. Current restrooms will serve as interim tool sheds until project is completed. Work includes concrete repair and railing construction, lighting and security installation, ADA accessibility and art restoration. The main barrier to completion is the necessary removal of a large pine tree that has grown in the middle of the court area. Already, the SF Horseshoe Pitching Club is applying for a national club charter.

Note: for those wanting to volunteer, the group meets on the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. in front of the Conservatory of Flowers.

- Motion passed unanimously to support a second Park Bond B grant that will be applied for by the Guardsmen in April.
- Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

**CVIA Executive Board:** Amy Blakeley, Chuck Canepa, David Crommie, Karen Crommie, Joan Downey, Lena Emmerly, Carole Glosenger, Douglas Hall, Marianne Hesse, Shannon Cooper Hock.

## Attention Artists, Vendors, Musicians, Owners of Unique Cars, and Volunteers

CVIA is pleased to announce that the Cole Valley Fair will be back again for its eighth year on Sunday, September 26, 2010.

The Fair continues to be a charming and well-attended event sponsored by merchants and organizations with outstanding records of community support. The fair features local art and fine crafts, lip-smacking food, live music, a display of historical Cole Valley photographs, a full block of vintage automobiles owned by neighborhood residents, events for children, and more!

If you're an artist with unique handcrafted work or a food vendor with tasty morsels, we hope you'll apply for booth space. The deadline is July 1. Priority will be given to Cole Valley residents, returning vendors, and promising new applicants. (Imported merchandise will not be considered). We will be accepting some applicants before the deadline date.

We're also seeking musicians from all genres and styles for one-hour performance slots. The Cole Valley Fair is a small and intimate street fair where the right sound will attract a lot of attention.

And, yes, Cars on Cole will be back again this year. Never been to the event? We look for interesting neighborhood vehicles—whatever that may mean. It need not be a “show queen”, or vintage, or rare. The range of vehicles in past years has been from a gaggle of Citroen 2CV's, British, German, French, Japanese and Italian sports and touring cars, heavy 30-60's American Iron, Model A to modern Hot Rod, motorcycles and bicycles.

Applications are at <http://cviasf.org/cole-valley-fair/>. Send your questions or comments to [colevalleyfair@gmail.com](mailto:colevalleyfair@gmail.com).

Volunteers make the whole thing work. Let us know if you're interested in helping out. Send an email to [colevalleyfair@gmail.com](mailto:colevalleyfair@gmail.com). We hope you will be a part of this year's Fair!



*Cole Fair date:  
September 26th*

—Joan Downey

## Cole Valley Has Talent

Claire Dworsky is a delightful nine year old with a passion for soccer, gymnastics and her academic studies at the Lycée. When proposals for science projects were requested, by the National Science Foundation, Kid's Science Challenge, she came up with a great project.

The project she thought up combined her sports interest with science and performed a needed research project. Fourth-grader Claire decided that the water on soccer fields should be tested to check on levels of toxic exposure to users.



*Budding scientist Claire Dworsky gets a hug from her proud mother, Deanna Hodgin.*

Claire was one of four kids chosen from the 3000 that applied to the challenge. Claire worked with scientists and studied the water at 10 soccer fields in San Francisco. Five of the fields were turf, that's the synthetic stuff, and 5 were grass. Her study, in collaboration with the scientists, led to some really valuable data. While the runoff from both types of fields has some level of toxicity, the turf fields are especially toxic to animal life and also contain heavy metals that are dangerous for children. Claire presented her project to the American Geophysical Union, an international gathering of scientists. She was the youngest person

ever to present a project to the group.

The interest in her presentation comparing the runoff water on synthetic and grass turf was so great that she has been invited to the European Geophysical Union meeting in Vienna, Austria this coming May.

Her parents, Deanna Hodgin and Philip Dworsky, are naturally proud of her most recent accomplishment. Deanna has said that the most interesting job she has ever had is managing the active life of her 9 year old. This from a woman that, among other things, was a Foreign Correspondent. I am sure we will hear more from Claire!

—Lena Emmerly

### Mt. Sutro in Bloom:

*Hike with Craig Dawson, April 10th, 10 am - Noon*

Walk at a leisurely pace along the dappled trails of Mt. Sutro, with founder of the Mt. Sutro Stewards, Craig Dawson. He will focus on the abundant native flowers in bloom at this time, as well as indicate what to look for on future visits with the changing seasons. Craig will share from his vast knowledge and stories about the rich history, flora, and fauna of this mountain that he has known since childhood. You must register in advance for this special event at <http://natureinthecity.org/WALKS.php>.

## Problems Continue in the Carl Street Pocket Park

In response to complaints about the misuse by indigent people of the small park by the entrance to the tunnel on Carl owned by the Municipal Transit Agency (MTA), Captain Teresa Barrett in March of last year requested more frequent monitoring by police section cars. It helped. But when the trouble persisted, there was a meeting held on January 27 between MTA's Sgt. Brian Devlin and neighborhood residents to tour the park and discuss solutions.

Said nearby resident James Judge, "I came upon an incident Monday morning. It seems the Muni maintenance crew had called it in. The police were trying to remove "Brown Bag 'Betty'" (frequent male park inhabitant) who was camped out, passed out along the rail track near the outbound handicap platform. He was unable to stand, fell on the tracks and they had to stop a train in order to drag him away. It appeared that he had an alcohol drink that the police poured out. His pants fell down. He staggered into the park, passed out and the police left. Let me count the violations: 1) criminal trespass on the track way, 2) camping, 3) public intoxication, 4) alcohol in the park,



*A friendly open space by day, the Carl Street Muni park changes character at nightfall.*

5) indecent exposure. No consequences. I have personally observed this individual defecating in the park on at least three occasions. I am sure it occurs regularly. In the past there have been restraining orders issued to prohibit people from the park I believe that is the best course of action here."

Said Ruth Wheeler, "There has been one homeless guy hanging out there (probably the one the neighbor is talking about who calls himself "Betty") who is really problematic. Leaves piles of garbage when he cleans out his cart. Abandons "stuff" behind bushes and at the top of the tunnel entrance. He is confrontational and gets really out of it where he can't stand up. Has no sense of curbing his behavior when children are present, etc.

Another issue in the park is graffiti. Wheeler continued, "Graffiti at the Clayton end of the park keeps reappearing. I feel sorry for the green house bordering the north side. They totally redid the house and now they have to repaint the wall common with the park about every ten days."

Elaine Robinson remarked, "I do have continuing concerns since the back of my house (kitchen, bedroom) is on the edge of the park and there is often swearing and drunken rages both day and night. The park has been a little better since the gardeners have trimmed the bushes, but still, people like "Betty," and others, use the park as a toilet. I do call the police when the noise gets too bad, but regular patrols would be helpful, and restraining orders also would help."

"Having more lighting in the park at night would make it less secluded, less desirable for illegal campers and safer for pedestrians," added Amy Blakeley.

At an earlier meeting in March of last year, we asked that the cutout areas in the wall of the tunnel entrance be screened over so people could not use it to store possessions. MTA responded that the cutout was a "refuge area" for someone caught on the track when a train comes through. This makes no sense because it would be faster to takes two steps in either direction to get clear of the train instead of crouching down and crawling into the cutout. Besides, with the gear there, there isn't room for "refuge" anyway. So once again, we asked that the cutout areas be screened off —Other suggestions were 1) fencing the area, 2) closing the park at night, 3) removing graffiti inside entrance to tunnel (reported since late December).

The residents had asked that the wall on the south side, which serves no apparent purpose, be removed for easier surveillance and public safety. (It has cracks and looks like it will soon fall down.) The MTA ran into a roadblock at the Arts Commission because there are a few decorative pieces on the wall. Again, we asked that the wall be removed to open up the area. Also, at the last meeting, Park Police indicated that the wrong civil codes appeared on the signs and as a result their powers were limited. Officer Devlin indicated that he would research the codes.

—Joan Downey

## Mount Sutro Steward Craig Dawson in Final Five

Craig Dawson and the Mt. Sutro Stewards have been working on the restoration and maintenance of the historic trails and locally rare habitats on Mt. Sutro for many years. Recently, Craig received regional recognition for the Stewards' work by becoming one of only five Bay Area finalists in the Cox Conserves Hero awards. Craig and the other Stewards have succeeded in bringing together a collective of organizations and individuals who continue to contribute to the success of the program. The awards recognize individuals who have been instrumental in attaining important environmental goals, including the hundreds of hours spent working behind the scenes to ensure the success of their programs. The finalists were celebrated at a lunch in December that was attended by the local Cox Broadcasting television station (Channel 2) and officials from the Trust for Public Lands.



*Craig Dawson*

It is fitting that Craig get regional recognition for his efforts in our neighborhood. Profiles of each of the finalists can be viewed at [www.coxconservesheroes.com](http://www.coxconservesheroes.com). Take the time to view the amazing accomplishments of each of the finalists; Craig is part of a very select group.

When he is not attending to the forest, he works at his business, Media Solutions, doing graphic design work and large format printing for promotional campaigns.

The Stewards' workdays, for those who want to get involved, are on the first Saturday of each month and all are welcome. Check the website [www.natureinthecity.org/mtsutro.php](http://www.natureinthecity.org/mtsutro.php) for directions to the meeting place, a short walk from anywhere in Cole Valley.

—Lena Emmerly

## Managing The Great Tasmanian Blue Gum on Mt. Sutro

The Tasmanian blue gum, *Eucalyptus globulus*, is surely one of the world's great trees, but in recent decades it has become the center of controversy in California. This controversy—most of it uninformed—has unfortunately obscured the tree's merits and its proper use. The controversy has little to do with the tree itself—an amazingly beautiful and successful creation of nature—but with improper siting, being often planted in inappropriate areas. Although Mt. Sutro was one of those inappropriate areas—putting a tree plantation on top of a priceless wildflower/grassland—the damage was done long ago, and the plantation will remain, perhaps to the end of time. But it needs management, which the University of California has undertaken for the first time. Unfortunately, public acceptance of management involves understanding of basic biological facts—understanding that is in short supply in today's urban world. My mantra is that we live in a biologically illiterate society, and this fact makes land management problematic.



*The Tasmanian Blue Gum (Eucalyptus), a native of Australia, carries the seeds of its own destruction.*

decades of prodigious self-sowing means that there are too many trees competing for too little space and other resources, something that wouldn't happen in a natural forest.

The result is overcrowding, forcing the trees to expend most of their energy in growing upward to reach the light. Most of them are devoid of limbs or foliage for the first 50 feet or more. This seldom occurs in natural conditions, and the Tasmanian forests have a totally different character, being much richer and diverse. Further, the now-changed Sutro environment creates conditions for the invasion and proliferation of Himalayan blackberry, and English, Algerian, and Cape ivies. They form smothering blankets and impenetrable thickets that deprive access to both humans and animals; only the volunteer work of the Sutro Stewards has penetrated into these thickets, but large areas are still monotonous and uninviting due to the lack of diversity and the paucity of wildlife occasioned by the few-species understory. The blackberry and

There is no sound reason for controversy about the University's plan to thin the eucalyptus plantation, because it should please both the tree's lovers and its detractors. All "forests" (in this case, not a forest but a plantation) must be managed, whether by nature or by man. Nature does it easily, naturally, without effort. For humans it is fraught with difficulty. There is the added problem of getting understanding and agreement from the human community. Adolf Sutro's plantation is no longer robust, in part because

ivies, incidentally, also prevent the trees from regenerating, as seeds can't germinate in the ivy/blackberry thickets. It is ironic that the blue gums carry the seeds of their own destruction, and only humans can assure their continuance here.

Those who object to the fire hazard-reduction plan must realize that management is not an option. The laissez-faire of the past century has come to an end, and management has become a compelling necessity. The possibility of a major fire—even a General Alarm fire—is too great and the University should not be asked to take this risk.

—Jake Sigg

*Ed. Note: the above excerpt is reprinted with permission from botanist Jake Sigg's online newsletter "Nature News from Jake Sigg." You can receive his twice monthly postings by request: Jakesigg@earthlink.net.*

## Danger for Drivers on Clayton

Making a left turn off of Clayton on to Carmel is dangerous and confusing. I have seen several accidents there. Last year a friend on route to visit me totaled his car as he was trying to make that turn. Luckily neither he nor his four year-old daughter, who was in the car with him, was hurt. I understand the police could



*Accident waiting to happen: Cars turning left onto Carmel on a yellow light, meet cars continuing up Twin Peaks Blvd. on a green light.*

not determine which driver was at fault. In my opinion the fault lies with poorly timed lights.

Here is a typical scenario: you are driving north on Clayton and you want to make a left onto Carmel. In order to see if there is oncoming traffic, you must move to the center of the intersection. Once you are in the middle of the intersection you are able to see that there is a steady stream of oncoming traffic. The light turns yellow, you anticipate the oncoming traffic will stop and this will allow you to quickly move your vehicle out of the middle of the intersection so you can complete your left turn.

Many drivers don't realize that only one lane of the two lanes of oncoming traffic will come to a stop. The southbound lane of Clayton that leads to Twin Peaks Blvd. has a light that stays green. So, as you are trying to complete your left turn, and get out of the middle of the intersection, the oncoming traffic that you *thought* was going to stop, doesn't.

Unfortunately, this intersection is dangerous for people who are not aware of the light patterns, traffic flow and poor visibility. I now always warn my visitors that this is a tricky intersection and to be very careful when they are approaching it.

—Shannon Cooper Hock

## Be Our Eyes and Ears

When you report graffiti to 311, you help the Department of Public Works and other city agencies do their job to remove graffiti from our sidewalks and streets. We also will notify private property owners to remove graffiti from their buildings.

A comparison of 311 graffiti data from July 2007 through June 2008 and from July 2008 through June 2009 shows a 19% increase in graffiti reports on private property and a 5.6% increase in graffiti reports on public property. The public also continues to call the Police on a regular basis, resulting over 100 arrests so far this year.

These statistics show that calls from the public make a difference in how the city looks. So keep on calling and we'll get the job done!

Mohammed Nuru  
Deputy Director of Operations  
SF Department of Public Works

### Remember . . .

- To call 311, when you see graffiti on public or private property.
- To report graffiti on line at [www.311.com](http://www.311.com).
- To call 911, when you see graffiti vandalism in action.
- To notify the Muni driver immediately and call 911, when you see someone tagging a bus or rail car.

## POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM



Captain Teresa Barrett holds community forums the second Tuesday of every month (except December) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. She and her staff review criminal activity, park events, and the

general safety concerns of residents. It's a good way to stay in touch with what's going on.

**February 23\*, March 9, April 13, May 11**

**Mark Your Calendars**

*\*revised date*



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.

## Postscripts

Embarrassment of riches. Could it be true that the Castro will soon have both a **Trader Joe's** in the old Tower Records location (Market and Noe) AND a **Whole Foods Market** in the former S&C Ford dealership at Market and Dolores? Once Pottery Barn secured a beachhead, the upscale marketeers knew the water was safe.

\* \* \*

Thanks to **Michael Sullivan** and our friends at **Plan C** for supporting the Haight Ashbury's campaign to initiate a "sit-lie" ordinance. Plan C, you might remember, is the citywide non-partisan group representing commonsense solutions to the city's problems (tagged early on as "the militant middle").

\* \* \*

When **C.W. Nevius** complained in his *San Francisco Chronicle* column about the illegal camping routinely tolerated in Golden Gate Park, readers criticized him for not coming up with any solutions. In his November 14 column he answered them: "Close the **Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council** recycling center: This recycling center is an ATM for homeless campers. As neighbors can attest, campers raid the recycling bins on the street, collect the cans and bottles, and get enough quick cash for a meal at the nearby **McDonald's**, topped off with a bottle of liquor or drugs."

\* \* \*

Congratulations to **Coco-luxe** for obtaining a permit to serve wine as part of their chocolate-wine pairings. Since moving to Haight Street they have been generous in donating their quality chocolate treats to neighborhood events and deserve our patronage.

\* \* \*

Discussions have been taking place over how to mitigate the increase in automobile traffic in and around Golden Gate Park's Concourse since the reopening of both the **De Young Museum** and the **California Academy of Sciences**. CVIA president Lena Emmery tells us that representatives from both the Academy and the De Young attended the most recent meeting along with **Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi**, his aide **Vallie Brown**, and members of various neighborhood groups. We were left with a decision to see if a permanent sign could be placed on 19th Ave to inform cars of parking status (full or not) and direct them to other choices and another temporary sign on Fell St. Right now the Museums are directing those unable to park in the Concourse Garage to drive out to the beach, park their cars, and take a shuttle back to the museums. Says Lena, "All this because they can't figure out a way to direct cars to the UCSF parking lot. Hey, this isn't brain surgery, is it?" —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 a cocktail napkin. We want to hear from you! CVIA News: 624 Ashbury St. or [cviasf@aol.com](mailto:cviasf@aol.com).



# New CVIA Board Member

The CVIA Board of Directors is happy to announce that Shannon Cooper Hock has joined the Board. Shannon is a native of the Bay Area and has lived in Cole Valley with her husband and two cats since 2002.

She loves the neighborhood and wanted to get involved with the activities that make our part of the City so special. Shannon has an event production company so her skill set will be most welcome for our association.

Board meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the home of a member and are open to any CVIA member. Call 661-0681 to learn the location.

—Lena Emmerly



Shannon Cooper Hock

# Correction

In an article acknowledging the many stalwart CVIA members who volunteered to work at last year's Cole Valley Fair, fair organizer Joan Downey failed to include the name of board member Douglas Hall. She wrote: "Doug not only worked at the CVIA booth for hours, skillfully answering questions and selling t-shirts hand over fist, he agreed to take on the thankless task of manning one of the intersections in the freezing cold when the fair was over. Thank you, Douglas. Please accept my apology."

## CVIA Officers

- President..... Lena Emmerly
- Vice President ..... Marianne Hesse
- Treasurer ..... Joan Downey
- Membership ..... Lena Emmerly
- Community Relations ..... Amy Blakeley
- Special Projects ..... Joan Downey

**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 May 1, 2010 to 628 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 .....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.)..... 311
- Graffiti and Illegal Sign Removal ..... 311
- NextBus ..... 311
- 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 George Gascón.....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 Teresa Barrett .....242-3000**  
 Park District Police Station  
 1899 Waller St.  
 S.F., CA 94117  
 Teresa.Barrett@sfgov.org

## 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

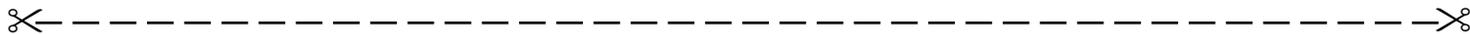
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10. Sophie Maxwell Sophie.Maxwell@sfgov.org	554-7670	554-7674
11. John Avalos John.Avalos@sfgov.org	554-6975	554-6979

### 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 in law enforcement efforts; encourage neighborhood-serving business; and be

constructively involved in San Francisco's governmental process. Annual dues are \$25.00. 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 \$25.00 made payable to: COLE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  Renewal

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

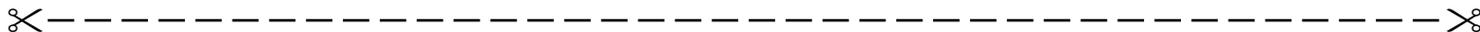
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Optional contribution to Cole sidewalk cleaning \$\_\_\_\_\_ Okay to acknowledge by name in newsletter

*Dues paid to CVIA are not deductible as charitable contributions but may be taken as a business expense. Any amounts greater than the membership dues may be taken as a charitable deduction. Contact your accountant regarding your tax law.*



**Cole Valley Improvement Association**  
**P.O. Box 170611**  
**San Francisco, CA 94117**