

# The HAYES VALLEY Voice

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A Publication of The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association | HVNA

March-April 2014

## A Reluctant Farewell

By Abby Stopper

*A note from the editor:* Our wonderful neighbor and Voice editor, Abby Stopper, is leaving the neighborhood. Here is her message to the 'hood:

On the first stormy weekend of 2014, I stood in Nick's Market on Page Street, sopping wet and unexpectedly in tears. I have never cried in a grocery store. Ever. In fact, I really don't enjoy crying in public. And yet, it seemed quite perfect to finally allow the surge of emotions sweep over me as Charlie approached, arms stretched, for a big hug. As I hugged him back, I started to think about the many evenings I staggered into Nick's, eyes glazed over from hours at the computer, grabbing the first box of mac n' cheese in sight, the afternoons when I worked from home and stopped in for milk but really just needed some human interaction, and the stealthy trips around the corner in the middle of a party to grab an extra bottle of wine.

That day, I was in search of water bottles to rehydrate the dedicated moving team (aka my family) at my apartment on Haight Street. Our apartment was empty and the truck was idling in the rain. It was getting dark and we still had to transfer our load into our new apartment in the Mission. Flustered, I explained that this was it, today I was moving, that I didn't know how to say "see you later but longer than usual," that I was so grateful for their friendship, that I had to go, people were waiting for me. And it all pretty much encompassed how I felt about leaving Hayes Valley on the whole.

I moved to Hayes Valley in 2011, eager to live in a neighborhood that I previously only visited for Sunday afternoon yoga and window shopping. Like most people who meandered through the neighborhood, I sensed the vibrancy, the tight-knit community, and the "artsy" vibe most obvious through the installations at Patricia's Green and the quaint shops. And, like most people (at least those in my "young, tech saturated" demographic), I thought that the neighborhood had stumbled into its current existence through some random events and a little prodding by the city.

About six months into my residency, I picked up an edition of the Hayes Valley Voice in the apartment lobby. I had never met any neighbors in any city I lived in and was intrigued. The first few meetings I attended were baffling. People were talking about parcels and proxy and permits...all things I knew little

about. The neighborhood was on the verge of a development surge. Slowly, I started to learn bits and pieces about the history of the neighborhood. It was surprising to learn that the art installations at Patricia's Green are not organized by the city. I was fascinated that the entire development of Octavia Boulevard was heavily guided by the people sitting next to me. From the Farm to the murals on the side of



Hayes & Kebab, the cranes hanging on a tree to honor Ruth Asawa to a dedicated mission to try to be sure affordable housing does not become extinct, Hayes Valley is not a wonderful place by happenstance. It was envisioned, planned, and executed in a grassroots fashion.

Hayes Valley has arrived but the momentum keeps moving us forward even more. With its arrival, there are new challenges, new questions and new residents with new needs and desires. It is insane to realize that the change is so rapid that I feel like a veteran after 2 1/2 short years. Imagine those who have been here 20. As time charges on, we need to embrace it. We also need look to the past and remember where Hayes Valley came from. What values and dreams molded it into the wonderful place it is today? I encourage everyone to engage a little bit. Attend one of Larry's walking tours, chat with some of the long time shop owners, ask about the video that is being made on Hayes Valley's history, volunteer to plant some flowers in one of the gardens.

To my most wonderful neighbors, thank you for creating a place that is so beautiful, welcoming, and educational. Thank you for teaching me how to think about urban living on a complex and socially conscious scale. Thank you for providing public art for me to enjoy. And of course, thank you to whoever it was that finally explained what a parcel is!

## President's Column

By William Bulkley



As I sit here in my third floor apartment on Buchanan Street I look out at the beautiful San Francisco skyline with the rotunda of the San Francisco City Hall and the Transamerica building in the distance. This is a view that I've cherished for over ten years but soon it will be gone from me forever. The 55 Laguna project is under construction: a four-story apartment block directly in line with my skyline view. I shouldn't cry now. I was a supporter of more infill housing in Hayes Valley during the Market Octavia Neighborhood Plan process. Of course, my experience is not unique. My neighbors towards Market Street in at least a couple of directions have already felt their loss. How could I have been in favor of capitalizing on underused parcels to provide infill housing in a transit rich neighborhood so that the outlying rural areas of the East, North and South Bay might remain rural? We're not really that interconnected, are we?

*Continued on Page 2*

## Come to the March General Community Meeting and Board Elections

Thursday, March 27th, 7pm  
Hayes Valley Playground Clubhouse  
699 Hayes at Buchanan Street

## HIGHLIGHTS

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Visit our website at:  
[www.hayesvalleysf.org](http://www.hayesvalleysf.org)

President's Column Cont. from Page 1

We're very passionate about housing in Hayes Valley. We love it so much we value it to outrageous proportions. A 673 square foot studio is currently renting for \$4000/month. But that's okay because the market knows best. We need to build more buildings so the demand for housing will be met. And this is going to happen. And the more people there are the more MUNI will be able to run on time. And the combined sewer system will handle the winter rains. And this won't attract even more people who will want to live here or stay in my Airbnb (that I don't have).

We're living in a dynamic time in Hayes Valley. The current construction boom has really begun and it has displaced temporary and interim local projects such as homeless housing and urban farm communities. We are feeling our growing pains and what pains those are. Uprooted and displaced, these projects seek dry and fertile ground to call home outside of Hayes Valley. Maybe once this boom has settled they can come back.

Dogs seem to be doing well in this boom. It seems they are perpetually leading their caregivers to new and exciting play spaces. Patricia's Green is one of them. The grass on that green is so perfect for the pups' pee that anyone else in their right mind has quite agreed that the canine breed has marked that spot with a vengeance. The Fifi's and Fido's also have nearby Duboce Park and the new pup parade under construction under the freeway in SOMA. In between these landmarks they leave landmines of their own. I'm so pleased that the sidewalks of Hayes Valley, and my sidewalk garden in particular, can be of such service to the pooches.

Early April Fool's aside, I am very proud of the work HVNA has done to make our neighborhood a more friendly energetic, and enlightened community. We welcome our new neighbors and hope that we can share our long-standing values of community, diversity, and service to the neighborhood.

The Hayes Valley Voice extends its gratitude to **Print & Ship** for their generous support of our publication.

## Transportation & Planning Committee Update

By Jason Henderson

Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association's Transportation & Planning Committee continuously follows many developments and transportation issues in Hayes Valley. If you are interested in getting involved with the T & P Committee, contact Jason Henderson at [planning@hayesvalleysf.org](mailto:planning@hayesvalleysf.org)

Current front-burner issues include the grocery proposals for 555 Fulton Street, which has not evolved substantially since previous Voice columns (see <http://hayesvalleysf.org/blog/555-fulton-should-community-values-be-sacrificed-for-a-chain-store/2013/09/>). HVNA expects to work with Supervisor Breed and the developer in the very near future as the developer brings forward proposals for an affordable grocer.

Additionally, the proposed adjustments to the Haight 6 and 71 buses will be underway soon. These include reintroducing two-way bus service on Haight Street between Laguna and Market Street (see <http://sf.streetsblog.org/2013/10/25/haight-market-contra-flow-bus-lane-ped-upgrades-coming-next-summer/>).

At our last T & P Committee meeting on February 25th, members met with the contractors overseeing 55 Laguna. Build Group's Zach Williams, who is the superintendent of the 55 Laguna construction project, laid out logistics, timing and issues the contractor promises to address. Here are some main points:

Build Group promises to respect the city-mandated 7am construction start time and says they will lean on sub-contractors to respect the neighborhood. When activity needs to start before 7am, they have to get a permit from the city and then they will notify HVNA and other neighbors.

Within the next two months all of the earth moving will be completed. Dump trucks will be using the Waller/ Buchanan entrance and will be

backing in at better-timed intervals.

In June, major concrete pouring will begin. There will be many, many cement trucks coming by 7am, and they will be beeping as they back up. This will likely be the most annoying noise for nearby residents. Cement pouring operations will go from 7am to 11am and from 11am to 4pm. There are different types of pours and some kinds of pours must happen as early as 7am. The contractor hopes to conclude this around September and then will go into framing for the

buildings. There will be no cranes on the site, unlike other nearby construction sites.

All trees that are standing are part of the project and will not be removed. Build Group agreed to step-up protecting the olive trees on Laguna.

Another important issue to the neighborhood is emphasizing local

hire in construction jobs. Build Group insisted that they were working through proper channels and with the labor union on following the local hire rules.

After the presentation on construction, Mercy Housing presented some preliminary designs for the retail space on the corner of Laguna and Herman, in the Richardson Hall building. The space will be 2400 square feet and a restaurant is preferred. HVNA discussed affordability and our preference for more of a café-style neighborhood restaurant rather than an upscale, destination restaurant. The preference of a newsstands/magazine shop adjacent to the café was also mentioned by HVNA members. The Richardson Hall renovation will be completed parallel to the rest of the market-rate portion of 55 Laguna.

Unfortunately the 70-unit building on the Laguna/Waller corner will be delayed to Fall 2016-2018 because of lack of commitment from the Mayor's Office of Housing. This is very disappointing. Affordability should be the city's priority.



Construction site at 55 Laguna

# StreetSmARTs, A New Opportunity for Bay Area Artists

By Murrey Nelson

Unwanted graffiti has long been a problem in cities, so five years ago San Francisco's Department of Public Works decided to team up with the San Francisco Arts Commission to use murals as a defense. The strategy had already been adopted in Los Angeles and Philadelphia and was showing signs of success. City officials realized that murals could actually be a deterrent to vandals, while also honoring the heritage of San Francisco and eliciting a sense of pride in the community.

The StreetSmARTS program utilizes artists to paint murals on private property in areas prone to blight. A recent workshop hosted by the program on February 5th drew about a dozen artists and a half dozen interested property owners. The workshop was open to visual artists of all types, not just professional muralists, as the program is designed to be inclusive. Tyra Fennell, Community Arts and Education

Manager, spoke to the group about the program and how it works.

Artists submit a work that is juried by a panel. The panel creates a pool of artists from which property owners may choose. Owners indicate their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices of artist. Through Google Earth and in person meetings, the selected artist is shown the location. If the artist agrees to take on the project he or she is given a stipend of \$2,400 to create a mural for a 10' x 40' foot space. The artist meets with the property owner to create a sketch for the location. The owner is encouraged to show the sketch to his/her neighbors and neighborhood association if applicable, to ensure they are comfortable with the concept. The design then goes to the San Francisco Arts Commission's Visual Arts Committee for final approval. The contract between artist and owner includes an insurance rider for the artist, and a waiver of the

VARA and CAPA Law for the owner, in case the owner needs to remove the mural in the event of sale of the building or other extenuating circumstance. Says Fennell, "this program has been highly successful. Overall the murals we have commissioned have remained untouched." Sounds like a win-win situation.

Neighborhood art note: The Hayes Valley Arts Coalition has taken over responsibility for the public art space in Patricia's Green, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2015. They, in turn, collaborate with the Arts, Culture and Environment (A.C.E.) Committee of the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association. If you are interested in joining A.C.E. or in furthering public art in the neighborhood, please contact Madeline Behrens-Brigham at [madelinebehrensbrigham@gmail.com](mailto:madelinebehrensbrigham@gmail.com).

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## What Does Quality of Life in Hayes Valley mean to you?

By Gail Baugh

Our February 27th membership meeting was organized to get your answers to this question. In order to address significant changes in our neighborhood, the meeting room was divided into six “issues” that seemed important, representing elements of quality of life here in Hayes Valley: Public Safety, Traffic (bike, pedestrians, cars-thanks to Bike Coalition’s Janice Li, and SFWalk’s Natalie Burdick), Local Business (thanks to Office of Small Business, Executive Director Regina Dick-Endrizzi), Local Art (thanks to Russell Pritchard), Local Greening (thanks to Jay Rosenberg), New Developments (thanks to Meaghan Mitchell-555 Fulton, Craig Hamburg-ddg Partners , 8 Octavia and Jim Warshell), and Homeless/Trash (thanks to Ahmad Elnajar, DPW). HVNA board members helped

to manage the tables and record ideas and suggestions brought up by the members

We found the dialogue very helpful for our neighborhood, and we expect to organize more membership meetings that allow for this type of discussion of neighbors’ concerns and suggestions to create a better neighborhood. We know that our neighborhood’s topography is being transformed as new developments emerge along the path of the old freeway and elsewhere, and keeping dialogue going about the inherent issues is an important way for Hayes Valley residents to engage.



## March 27th: Greening our Neighborhood!

By Gail Baugh

Our greening committee will organize a similar community meeting to develop specific plans to green our neighborhood. We all learned so much from the Hayes Valley Farm, and our Greening Committee co-chair, Jay Rosenberg, was the manager of the Farm until it closed. We’re expecting Friends of the Urban Forest, DPW’s Department of Urban Forestry and other groups to listen to your ideas and develop some planning for greening our neighborhood! We all know that quality of life in our neighborhood should include greening projects. Continue to join in our community meetings to make your voice heard to keep our neighborhood a wonderful place to live.



## An Important Notice from SFMTA

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), in conjunction with the Department of Public Works (DPW) is replacing the sewer line on Haight Street between the Haight and Gough intersection and Octavia Boulevard. The work began on March 10th and is expected to take approximately six weeks to complete.

The sewer work marks the beginning of the Market and Haight Streets Transit and Pedestrian Improvement Project, which includes construction of an eastbound transit-only lane on Haight Street between Laguna and Market streets, widening sidewalks at the Haight and Gough intersection and traffic signal upgrades. This is a multi-agency project that includes sewer and water line replacements.

### What to expect during sewer work:

- Work will begin at the intersection of Haight, Gough and Market streets and move progressively west on Haight Street.

- General work hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; however, the schedule may vary at different work locations.
- Work will take place primarily in the middle of Haight Street. At least one lane will remain open to vehicular traffic during construction.
- Street parking will be unavailable in the construction zone during work hours.
- Westbound 6 Parnassus and 71/71L Haight/Noriega buses will continue to operate on Haight Street.
- The sewer line will continue to flow during construction.
- Local access will be provided to residences and businesses at all times.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to improve your MUNI system. For concerns or questions, please contact Lisa Chow, Project Manager, at (415) 701-4310 or Jay Lu, Public Relations Officer, at (415) 701-4387. For more information, visit [www.sfmta.com/market&haight](http://www.sfmta.com/market&haight).

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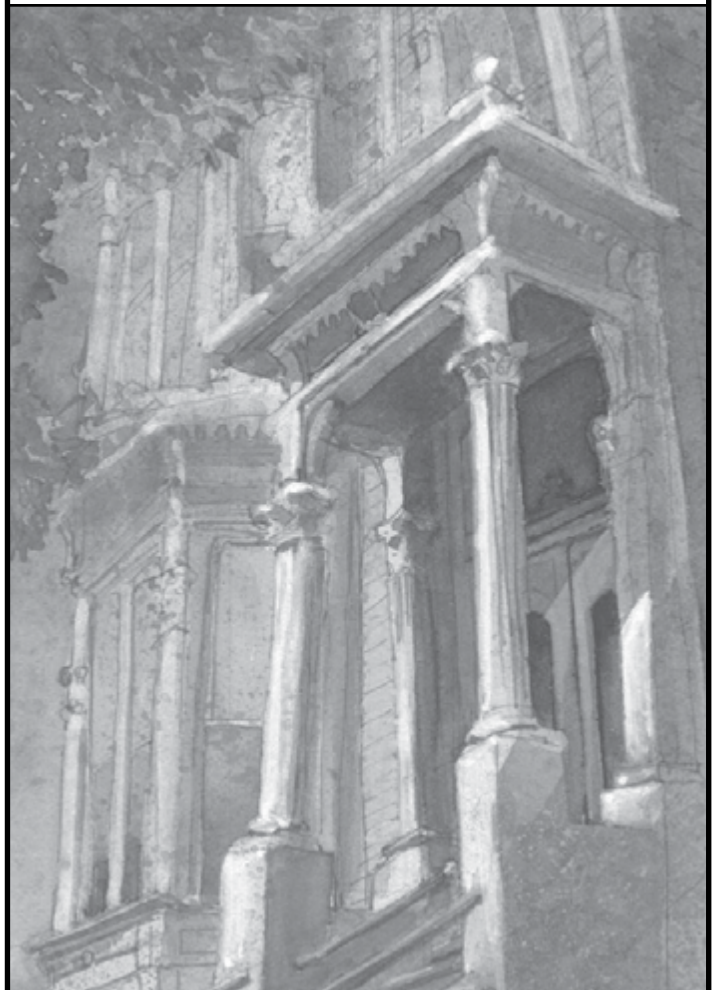


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### Membership Levels:

Please check the appropriate membership category:

**Voting Member: Must reside within the association's boundaries**, or own property or a business within the association's boundaries (*see map*)

**Associate Member: Members residing outside the association's boundaries**

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- Non-Profit \$50



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Volunteers are welcome! Please indicate your areas of interest.

- Arts, Culture and Environment (ACE)
- Business Relations
- Communications (Newsletter & Web site)
- Families and Children
- Neighborhood Safety
- Support (flyer distribution, mailings, etc.)
- Transportation and Planning
- Greening
- Other:

### Return to:

Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association  
 1800 Market Street, PMB #104  
 San Francisco, CA 94102

## MARCH

**Thursday, March 27th  
 7pm**  
 March General Community Meeting and Board Elections

This meeting will focus on greening issues due to the spring equinox. There will be a representative from Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) doing a short presentation, followed by a round table on greening issues.

Hayes Valley Playground  
 (699 Hayes St.)

## MAY

**Monday, May 5th  
 7pm**  
 Public Safety Meeting  
 Korean American Center  
 745 Buchanan Street

**Sunday, May 18th**  
 Bay to Breakers

**Thursday, May 29th  
 7pm**  
 May General Community Meeting

Hayes Valley Playground  
 (699 Hayes St.)

## APRIL

**Monday, April 7th  
 7pm**  
 Public Safety Meeting  
 Korean American Center  
 745 Buchanan Street

Bay to Breakers preparation will be discussed.

**Thursday, April 24th  
 7pm**  
 April General Community Meeting

This meeting will include discussion on preparation for Bay to Breakers.

Hayes Valley Playground  
 (699 Hayes St.)

## This publication needs you!

We are always looking for neighbors to write articles for the Voice and for the blog. Please contact **voice@hayesvalleysf.org** if you would like to volunteer!

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All City Departments.....	311



# San Francisco Fire Department at Public Safety Meeting

By Bob Barnwell

The San Francisco Fire Department made a presentation at the March 3, 2014 Public Safety meeting regarding fire safety tips for your residence. Led by Deputy Chief of Administration, Raymond Guzman, and Fire Marshall and Assistant Deputy Chief Michie Wong many points were made on how to keep your house, apartment, or business safe from fire.

With a budget of more than \$332 million, 1350 employees, and 44 firehouses the SFFD is an important part of the public safety team. The department also has two fire boats which are a regional asset for other cities in the Bay Area. The Airport has a separate budget and is a separate division. Deputy Chief Guzman oversees the administration of the department including fire equipment, firehouses and maintenance of the fire equipment. Fire Marshall Wong oversees investigations, including arson, and conducts construction inspections while also being involved in the permit process.

It was stressed at the meeting that whenever dealing with a fire problem to call 911. The 911 call center in San Francisco (at a previous meeting) handles over 2700 calls a day and is regarded as one of the best in the country. It is estimated that between 75-80% of the calls the SFFD responds to involve medical emergencies.

There was a lot of information provided regarding fire safety tips involving pets. Pet Fire Safety Day is July 15. Cats are a particular concern, especially around open flame. Extinguish open flames and invest in flameless candles and stove knob covers. Glass water bowls on



Our neighborhood firefighters, on the scene

a deck can filter the light and heat up and ignite the wooden deck. Let ADT (ADT.com/pets) and other alarm companies know you have pets. Affix a pet alert window cling to a front door or window to let rescuers save time in locating your pets.

Some basic fire tips: never smoke lying down or in the bedroom; besides a smoke detector, install a carbon monoxide detector, as smoke rises while carbon monoxide is colorless. The number one source for fire in

your residence is the kitchen. Do not throw water on a grease fire - it will create a fireball. Have a fire extinguisher for the kitchen. Unplug coffee pots and toasters. Pets are generally curious and will investigate appliances. When going to a community room, hall or hotel always know where your exit is.

Stop by an HVNA or Public Safety meeting to pick up the information the San Francisco Fire Department has provided for our safety.

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