# The HAYES VALLEY Voice

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January/February 2016

# The Laguna Street Corridor— Retail & Housing Expansion in Hayes Valley

By Gail Baugh, Vice President



NNA's standing-room-only Town Hall meeting last night (Jan. 21) focused on the many changes already here and coming to our neighborhood. Supervisor and Board of Supervisors President London Breed, attended the meeting, and spoke about the proposed new grocery store, that is entitled at the north end of Hayes Valley at 555 Fulton Street. After visiting New Seasons Market headquarters in Portland, OR, January 15<sup>th</sup>, she and a residents' group toured several stores to fully understand New Seasons Market's implementation of the company's mission and its promise to provide affordable, fresh food to its neighborhoods. There will be more on this grocery store this spring, and if interested, contact voice@hayesvalleysf.org. The retailer's representative, Jerry Chevassus, introduced his company, passed out store information, and took questions. He also introduced the 555 Fulton development project manager, Erik Liu. This grocery store will be about 28,000 square feet (the size of Whole Foods new store on Market Street).

Laguna Street is the focus of 5 new housing/retail projects that are in planning stages, under construction now, or completed last year: 340+ apartments, a community garden and a community art center at Laguna/Haight, 140 apartments, 2 retailers at Laguna/Oak, 30 condos/4 retailers at Laguna/Hayes, 120 condos and an affordable grocery store at Laguna/Fulton, and 108 affordable apartments, childcare site and 1 retailer at Laguna/Fell. The new density of housing and retail on Laguna Street are providing challenges to maintain quality of life, pedestrian and bike safety, flow of public transit and traffic enforcement.

This corridor will bring new interest and activity to our neighborhood, but with these developments, there will need to be proactive and vigilant to be sure our neighborhood maintains its character while welcoming new neighbors and businesses. After 2 HVNA meetings in December and early January, the supervisor now has a list of traffic and other safety concerns from our membership. We encourage you to learn more about this list and future neighborhood meetings. Please volunteer how you can help Hayes Valley continue to be a great place to live.

 $Contact\ safety @hayesvalleys f\ and\ planning @hayesvalleys f. or g\ for\ more\ information.$ 

President's Column
By Larry Cronander



The end of one HVNA Board year approaches, and a new one will soon begin on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The accomplishments of the HVNA this past year have been many. Our efforts in many areas of interest to Hayes Valley will be ongoing through 2016.

The Hayes Valley Art Works on Parcel O (Fell and Laguna) has successfully opened and will soon have electricity and lighting. Formula Retail continues to be a major concern and the HVNA is involved in the current process of possibly revising the Planning Code to strengthen the law in favor of independent, locally-owned and neighborhood-serving businesses. At 555 Fulton, the HVNA continues to work for a grocery store on the site whose offerings are both healthy and affordable and which will serve the needs of all the neighborhood's residents, including providing employment for local residents.

Going forward into the new year, there are several greening projects planned, currently in various degrees of planning and development. We expect to see Bay Area Bike Share stations in locations the HVNA is currently recommending. With input from the membership, recommendations for safety, security and traffic improvements in Hayes Valley, both short and long term, have been formulated and are being addressed.

These and many other projects too numerous to mention here invite your participation. The next Monthly Community Meeting of the HVNA of February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at the Hayes Valley Playground Clubhouse. We will hold our election for the new Board of Directors for 2016, followed by our annual Membership Appreciation Party where you can meet the members of your Board, past and present. It has been both my pleasure and honor to be the President of the HVNA's Board of Directors for the past year. Please join me on February 25<sup>th</sup> as we elect our new Board! president@hayesvalleysf.org



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#### **Public Safety Concerns for 2016**

By Bob Barnwell, Chair, Public Safety Committee

The Monday, January 4 Public Safety Meeting was devoted to discussing the community's public safety concerns for 2016. 20 community members were joined by Lt. Chris Creed of Northern Station and Vallie Brown of Supervisor Breed's office in voicing our concerns for the new year. Many were the same as precious years but there were some new safety issues that will be worked on in 2016. Community members say the top public safety goal for 2016 is to make it safer than 2015.

Once again the number one crime in Hayes Valley is property crime. This is defined by police as burglary, auto theft, theft from auto (car break-ins), arson and other theft. This also includes shoplifting and graffiti and vandalism. 2015 saw a big spike in these crimes in San Francisco and particularly Northern Station. Many of the victims of property crimes are tourists especially car break-ins. One major property crime concern is mail box theft and package theft.

A major discussion was over the need for better street lighting. Many lights are old and too high and are blocked by trees. Better lighting by stores is also needed. Dark streets are not only a safety problem for residents but also for the many businesses in Hayes Valley. They want their customers to be safe when leaving their stores, restaurants, and bars. We will have to make a major lobbying effort to the city to improve street lighting in our area.

A major concern is the increased amount of traffic along Laguna. With new housing going in at 55 Laguna, Avalon, 580 Hayes and 555 Fulton there will be an increase in traffic on Laguna. Traffic lights may be needed. This is a public safety issue for pedestrians and transit riders.

Public safety concerns were also expressed regarding homeless issues. The situation will only get worse with major developments planned for Van Ness and Market. Closer working with the Homeless Outreach Team will be pursued. Look for an upcoming Public Safety Meeting devoted to homeless issues.

safety@hayesvalleysf.org

# Neighborhood Notice

Meeting to finalize the adjusted hours of the Hayes Valley Playground and Courts.

Thursday, Feb. 28th at 6:30 pm Hayes Valley Playground Clubhouse, corner of Hayes and Buchanan.

Contact green@hayesvalleysf.org for more information.



#### March 9th Flamenco Comes to the Herbst-Save the Date

by Vanessa de Fábrega

Hayes Valley is home to many artists and afficionados of the arts, including myself, an artist working in various mediums with a great passion for Flamenco.

That said, I'm very excited to share the news about a wonderful Flamenco music concert that will take place right here in our neighborhood on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at Herbst Theater, as part of the 11th Annual Bay Area Flamenco Festival.

"Oh Vida!" is a promising new collaboration between Spanish Gypsy singer Esperanza Fernández and Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba. The New York Times considers Rubalcaba "one of the greatest musicians in jazz... a pianist of almost supernatural abilities" and the San Francisco Chronicle has commented on how "the complexity of modern life and raw emotion

of flamenco's cante jondo mix in a beguiling way in the profoundly soulful voice of ... Esperanza Fernández."

This special concert celebrates the inimitable Cuban singer Beny Moré (1919-1963) and his Spanish Gypsy counterpoint, the revered flamenco cantaor Manolo Caracol (1909-1973). Fernández and Rubalcaba's reinterpretations of Moré's classics "Oh Vida" and "¿Cómo Fue?" and Caracol's "Carcelero" and "La Salvadora" turn the concept of ida y vuelta (literally "roundtrip" songs" – a flamenco musical form originated in the interplay between flamenco and Cuban/Latin American musical traditions) on its head, building new bridges between Spanish and Cuban song and broadening the diverse influences and expression of Flamenco music.

For tickets and information on this and other 11th Annual Bay Area Flamenco Festival events go to www.bayareaflamencofestival.org or call (415) 392-4400.

## **Delivery Volunteers Needed**

The Hayes Valley Voice is distributed by volunteers. If you would like to get involved - please contact voice@hayesvalleysf.org and let us know! We especially need delivery volunteers in the Lower Haight area of Hayes Valley.

# Transportation & Planning Update

Jason Henderson, Chair, T & P Committee



Thile there's been plenty of excitement over the arts happening on the former Hayes Valley farm site, HVNA is also thrilled that the Planning Commission unanimously approved a new 100% affordable housing development here. Headed-up by Mercy Housing, the proposal for "Parcel O/ 455 Fell) includes 108 affordable family-oriented housing units, a space for a small neighborhood-serving grocer, and zero off-street parking. Expect construction in early 2017. This is a fantastic project bringing together the core philosophical values of HVNA – affordable housing, car-free development, and mixed uses that are walkable, bikeable, and close to transit.

Going forward, HVNA has expressed hopes that a proposed midblock passage is more inviting than displayed in renderings. The passage on Parcel P (Avalon) has been the very disappointing and we hope Mercy can do better. This will also be a perfect site for the bike share program to install a station, and for city car share to also provide a few curbside pods, so we'll be nudging SFMTA to save some curb for that.

The T & P committee also continues to follow developments regarding "Google buses," or the private commuter buses running between the city and Silicon Valley. Last year HVNA joined with citywide allies in opposing Assembly Bill 61, a state law which might have allowed tech buses to use Muni stops. Though defeated last year, it has resurfaced. It is somewhat befuddling because the authors are all Southern California Republicans.

We all appreciate the products that the employees of these corporations design – from cancer-fighting drugs at Genentech to search engines at Google. Indeed some of our members work for these companies. But private, luxury shuttles buses in public bus stops have negative impacts.

In many cases these privatized buses prevent Muni from pulling up to the curb to pick up senior citizens and people with disabilities. Additionally, by using public bus stops, SFMTA is encouraging the private buses to use streets that are not suitable for these large vehicles. These buses are heavier than what is normally permitted on most streets, and contribute to wear and tear on streets designed for lighter vehicles. For example Hayes Street, with Muni bus stops for which the private buses utilize, is a street that has

weight limits forbidding the operation of these vehicles. Yet they use the street and bus stops every weekday.

We're also concerned that allowing the use of Muni stops is disingenuous way to avoid a more sensible option for the private commuter buses, and that is to stripe-in white loading zones in key locations in the city. These loading zones would be oriented towards the main arterials rather than neighborhood streets and could also be used by delivery vehicles that otherwise double park, another impediment to Muni. Significantly, unlike the use of bus stops, it is already legal for the city to create white zones!

We urge that, rather than bend rules at the expense of public transit ridership, and encouraging these huge buses on neighborhood streets, that resources be directed at thinking more strategically about where private bus stops might be appropriate – larger arterial streets and strategically located curbside loading zones.

planning@hayesvalleysf.org



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# **Open Call for Artists!**

By PK Cummings, Co-chair, A.C.E. Committee

The Arts Culture & Entertainment (ACE) Committee, located in the heart of Hayes Valley, is looking to showcase the incredibly talented artists of the San Francisco Bay Area. Hang your project in our pop-up collective gallery, find the outdoor space to work on your mural or have your instillation featured on Patricia's Green. We're looking for artists of all levels and ages and welcome *anyone* with a creative spirit to participate.

#### **Collective Gallery:**

Do you have project that you've been working on? Want to show your work in highly-accessible areas? We've showcased 60 artists in our past galleries and we're looking to expand on the success of our previous pop-up with more events.

#### Murals:

Can you create large-scale paintings? Do you know of any building owners that would be interested in creating landmarks with murals (with city approval, of course)? Let us know what you want to see and where you want to see it.



Envision murals in our neighborhood. Locations such as the one pictured above are great places for art in our neighborhood.

#### Patricia's Green Sculpture:

We are having an open call for artists who work on a larger, tactile scale. Who would like to be the heart of the community with international recognition for a year? Do you have any favorite Bay Area sculptors? Let us know!

• • •

Getting to know your neighbors is the true beauty of involvement. We want to bring together the old, the new, and everything in-between. Expanding our horizons while creating something beautiful for us all to share are the goals of the ACE Committee.

Please join us for our next planning meeting January 28th, 6:30pm at Cafe La Vie - 514 Octavia St. or email us with questions, recommendations, etc. <code>art@hayesvalleysf.org</code>



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William Bulkley and PK Cummings *Co-Chairs* art@hayesvalleysf.org

#### **Business Relations**

Angel Davis and Charles Bililides, *Co-Chairs* business@hayesvalleysf.org

#### Communications & The Voice

Gail Baugh, *Chair* voice@hayesvalleysf.org

#### **Public Safety**

Bob Barnwell, *Chair* safety@hayesvalleysf.org

#### Transportation and Planning

Jason Henderson, *Chair* planning@hayesvalleysf.org

#### Greening

Jay Rosenberg and Jim Warshell, Co-Chairs greening@hayesvalleysf.org

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voice@hayesvalleysf.org
to learn more!

#### FEBRUARY

#### Monday, February 1st,

7 pm: Public Safety Committee Chief Karen Fletcher, Adult Probation. What role does Adult Probation play in public safety? This department is one of the most successful in California. Learn more. safety@hayesvalleysf.org Korean Cultural Center, 745 Buchanan St

#### Thursday, February 18th

ACE Committee Learn more about upcoming visual art and performing projects. art@hayesvalleysf.org Café la Vie, Octavia near Hayes Street

#### Sunday, February 21stHayes Valley Art Works

Thursday, February 23rd6:30-7:00pm: Greening Committee green@hayesvalleysf.org

7:00pm: Membership/Community Meeting HVNA Board elections (be sure to

sign up for membership to vote). Hayes Valley Clubhouse at the Playground, corner of Hayes and Buchanan

#### MARCH

#### Monday, March 7th

7:00pm: Public Safety Committee safety@hayesvalleysf.org Korean Cultural Center, 745 Buchanan St.

#### Thursday, March 17th,

ACE Committee meeting: Planning upcoming arts projects art@hayesvalleysf.org
Café la Vie, Octavia near Hayes
Street

#### Thursday, March 24th

 $6: 30\text{-}7: 00 pm: Greening \ Committee} \\ green@hayesvalleysf.org$ 

7:00pm: Membership/Community Meeting

Learn what is going on in our neighborhood

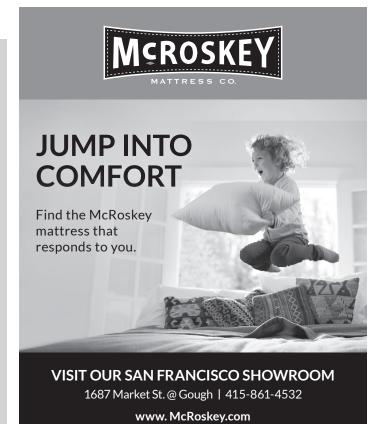
Hayes Valley Clubhouse at the Playground, corner of Hayes and Buchanan

#### **Hayes Valley Art Works:**

Watch for a change in hours and activities.

hayesvalleyartworks@gmail.com Corner of Fell and Laguna

Access the calendar online: hayesvalleysf.org/events



# Hayes Valley Art Works Update

You've seen the white rocks, now in a labyrinth, bright color dots painted by John Baden and hydro-seeding to soften the edges of the site and provide a way to reduce the dust during the summer. Now more activities are planned as electric power will finally be restored by the time you are reading this newsletter.

Visit us on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, noon to 5 pm. However, there may be changes coming during February, so pay attention.

 $Contact: have svalley artworks@gmail.com\ or\ visit\ www. have svalleys f.org\ for\ more\ information$ 



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#### ■ Membership Levels:

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

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- $\square$  Families and Children
- ☐ Neighborhood Safety
- ☐ Support (flyer distribution, mailings, etc.)
- ☐ Transportation and Planning
- ☐ Greening
- $\square$  Other:

#### Return to:

Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association 400 Grove Street Suite #3 San Francisco, CA 94102

# **Board Elections Coming up** in February

By Bob Barnwell, Membership Secretary

Thursday, February 25, 2016 is the annual HVNA Elections meeting. HVNA members will vote for officers and members of the Board of Directors for the upcoming year. Your membership in HVNA must be current in order to vote. Each member has their own membership date. If you joined or renewed in January, 2015 you must renew by February 25 in order to vote. If you joined or renewed in March-December, 2015 you are current and can vote. We will have membership applications and PayPal for you to renew on the spot on February 25.

HVNA has now over 300 current members. We just completed our Fall renewal campaign with a goal of 100 renewed or new members. We got 140. There are a lot of new people in Hayes Valley and many are members of HVNA. 60% of our membership is generated during the January-June time period. We expect a record membership year for 2015/2016. Make sure your membership is current so you can vote on February 25.

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