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By Russell Esmus, Editor, HVNA

As the year draws to a close, I wanted to take this chance to quickly reflect on this past year for the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association and to say thank you for being a neighbor.

Here's a brief update on what happened in 2017:

We expanded our offering of night time events with our locally produced Silent

Disco series by ZeroDB Global. These events brought late night activity to Patricia's Green and PROXY with support from HVNA and local bars. We also saw the opening of Haight Street Art Center and the return of Jeremy Fish' Silly Pink Bunny, now Bronze Bunny. We also want to recognize and thank Safety Committee chair Bob Barnwell for his commitment to service in the community and for organizing monthly Safety Committee meetings at the Korean

American Center. His ability to network and inform within the community and the city overall helps bring attention to and address safety issues that impact the community.

We also saw many projects like the Octavia Blvd. clean-up and Living Alleys projects movin forward (see pg. 8).

We look forward to 2018 - wishing you good cheer and a happy New Year!

(See more details about the Holiday Block Party on pg. 2).

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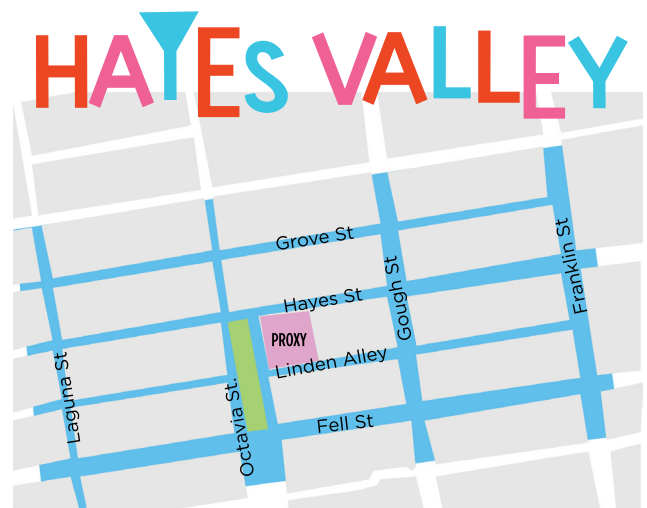
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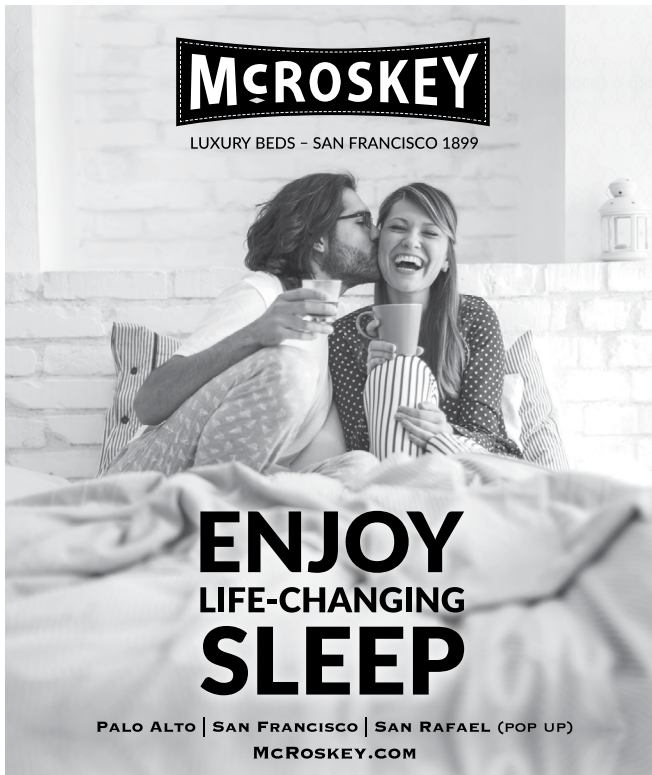
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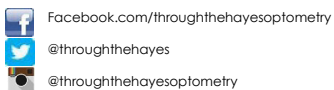
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The Alleyways: What's next?

Highlighting the alleys throughout Hayes Valley

By Craig Hamburg, Vice President, HVNA

Hayes Valley has experienced tremendous growth since the Market Octavia Neighborhood Plan was realized. Following the opening of Octavia Boulevard in September 2005, Patricia's Green, at the intersection of Octavia Boulevard and Hayes Street, has become the heart of the neighborhood. Every day, locals sip coffee while their dogs greet other four legged friends. Students come out for lunch and younger children climb around the playground. Weekends attract visitors from both near and far. However as Patricia's Green becomes more and more crowded, Living Alleys can act as urban living rooms designed to provide new safe and active places for people to enjoy.

So, what is a Living Alley? Between the larger, more well-known streets, there is a series of alleys running throughout Hayes Valley. Linden Street between Gough Street and Octavia Boulevard is the most popular and well-known. Thanks to Blue Bottle and a few thoughtful neighbors, people head to Linden Street for their daily espressos, lattes, and iced coffees. Linden Street successfully mixes public furniture, great landscape, commercial stores, and even a hotdog stand to serve as a template for other Living Alleys to come.

So, what do you need to make a Living Alley? The Market Octavia Neighborhood Plan requires all new multifamily housing developments to pay community impact fees relative to the project their size and scale. The fees are then used to fund public safety focused infrastructure improvements as well as support Living Alley grants awarded to private groups interested in creating new Living Alleys. The grants do not cover all of the costs but can be used to offset up to \$200,000 in construction related work and furniture (excluding design, engineering and management costs). Local businesses, development projects and community members work with their neighbors to design, fund and build the new alleys.

Some alleys start as smaller improvements like strings of lights and go on to grow as landscaping, seating and other features are added over time.

Several design features are recommended help to create a good living alley:

- Make them green; adding landscape can soften a more urban environment and invite people to gather and socialize.
- Share the space; a calm street balances the priorities of pedestrians, bicycles and automobiles.
- Promote vibrant spaces; support the activities of neighbors, communities and businesses. Vibrant alleys are great for markets, vendors, food carts and coffee counters, and
- Keep it clean & safe; alleys need to be cared for, well lit and maintained to welcome people.

So, what Living Alley projects are already in the works? Neighbors and community members have been working together to improve the alleys where they live and work. New projects are planned for Ivy Street between Gough and Franklin, Hickory Street between Franklin and Van Ness (read more about Hickory Street, The Alleyways, on pg. 6 of the Fall 2017 edition of The Hayes Valley Voice) as well as a project on Clinton Park (just south of Market Street).

More information on Living Alleys and how to start one on your block can be found at: <http://sf-planning.org/living-alleys-toolkit>.