

The HAYES VALLEY Voice

Volume 07/Issue 02

A Publication of The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association | HVNA

Mar-Apr 2007

Public Safety Update

By Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi

To reduce crime in Hayes Valley, Western Addition, and in the City, a multifaceted tailored approach involving both the community and local government is required. A combination of violence prevention and effective crime fighting measures warrant an accountable synergy. Wrap-around services that I insist on as a neighborhood constant such as: work force job training and placement, truancy alternatives, and vertical ex-offender rehabilitation will work well, but risk setbacks if violence continues without concern for the consequences.

While it helps organized efforts to exercise an insistent tone for neighborhood safety by calling on the SFPD, DA, Adult and Juvenile Probation, Courts, the Mayor, and others, it's also important to note where local progress is being made. This includes the beginning of a police foot patrol program, the formation of a Community Policing Advisory Board within the Mayor's Office, ensuring San Francisco Police Department access to Housing Authority properties, and our work late last year to increase funding and other support for violence prevention programs in our community.

On February 15, in my role as chair of the newly formed Board of Supervisor's Public Safety Committee, I held a hearing on critical improvements needed to address the level of

crime on and contiguous to San Francisco Housing Authority property. Nothing short of a Kafkaesque problem, there appeared to be a long-standing need to unravel any confusion that impeded SFPD patrolling public housing (which is Federal property). It was determined that Housing Authority sites must provide written permission to enable the SFPD to enter the properties to enforce trespassing laws. On March 6th, an impressive display of force from the SFPD, Housing Authority officials, City agencies, Mayor Newsom, Supervisor Ammiano and myself announced at Hayes Valley South that SFPD would begin to patrol multiple housing developments... it's a start.



Mayor Newsom speaking at Hayes Valley South with Captain Dillon, Supervisor Ammiano and Supervisor Mirkarimi

ASPIRE! Black Teen Artists Interpret Success

"ASPIRE! Black Teen Artists' Interpretations of Success" comes to the San Francisco Main Public Library from March 10 through June 7, 2007. Over 16 talented teen artists from eight different San Francisco, Richmond and Oakland high schools present artwork and stories on success. March is national Arts Education Month.

Alongside each artist's piece is the artist's statement on success. They communicate through art and words their dreams and fears; their motivations and obstacles.

"My nephew gave me the concept, even the title," says curator Kheven LaGrone. "One night, we were debating art and social change in Black SF"

Continued on page 2

President's Column

By Paul Olsen



So much has happened since our last newsletter that it would be impossible to fit it all in here. Please be assured that the HVNA Board continues to work diligently on your behalf. I would like to take this time to thank those Board members who stepped down at our annual meeting in February. Ed Bedard, Warren Dewar, Richard Johnson, Robin Levitt and Ali Shabahangi have collectively worked almost two decades as members of the Board, and far more than that as dedicated activists for our neighborhood. We are better off for their having served, and very appreciative of their efforts.

The newly elected Board is hard at work on many issues affecting our neighborhood. See the articles elsewhere in the newsletter for updates. Please note that Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi continues to work closely with our Public Safety committee, and authored the article on Public Safety in this issue of the Voice.

Our February meeting was very well attended and covered a variety of topics important to the community. If you missed it, you missed something special. Don't miss the March meeting on the 22nd, as we will be reviewing

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Visit our redesigned Web site at:
www.hayesvalleysf.org

From *Aspire*, page 1

LaGrone believes dreams are the seeds of success. LaGrone also believes teen years are for dreaming and decision-making. His nephew, Jarrel Phillips, a Black teen artist from San Francisco, thinks differently. Phillips argues that teenagers today have given up hope and many have stopped trying - even stopped thinking about success.



“Nowadays, we think success is not an option,” says Phillips. He especially wanted to keep the theme and title “ASPIRE!” arguing “Now we see somebody thinking about success so we think about success. It’s okay to hope. It’s okay to be optimistic.”

Phillips believes the show can have an impact. “By doing artwork, the Black teen artists think about success. Maybe they’ll give other kids the idea of success and give them hope.”

Student artists from the following San Francisco high schools are included: School of the Arts, Balboa, Phillip Burton, Wallenberg and Ida B. Wells.

From *President’s Column*, page 1

plans for five of the freeway parcels along Octavia Blvd. They won’t stay empty forever!

As we move into another year, some of our neighborhood businesses are in transition. We have had some closures, some re-locations, and the opening of several new spots throughout the neighborhood. Please take the time to get to know our business neighbors, and to patronize local shops as you are able. Active businesses along our various commercial streets strengthen the neighborhood, and give us all more options.

Finally, thanks to all of you who commented favorably on our last newsletter. Many of you liked the long, and folksy, President’s column. When time and information allow, I may use that style again. In the meantime, I’m being held to limited space and a deadline. Still, I look forward to seeing you ’round the ’hood.

Black History Celebration

Gathering Our Youth through Positive Beginnings

Once again this year, the community produced a wonderful event focusing on Black History. Held in the auditorium of John Muir Elementary, the event featured poems, songs, a procession of the Queen of Sheba and her Court and some dramatic readings. This was the 4th annual event produced by Ruby Johnson of the Western Addition Drill Team, one of the founding partners of Hayes Valley Community Partners. This year’s event saw a further evolution of the celebration, as the Western Addition Beacon Center partnered with other groups in a collaborative effort to include more of the youth in the area and at the school. Every year it just gets better!

Youngsters from the 2nd grade on up gave presentations of famous names, and there were several recitations of what the world would be like without black people, focusing on inventors and their invention. How would you like to live in a world without elevators, washing machines, or even combs? These, and many more items we take for granted, were invented by black people. While non-violent protest may not be an invention, the event focused on two of our nation’s leaders who were made famous by promoting non-violence and equality for all, Dr Martin Luther King Jr

and Coretta Scott King. A tribute was made to Ms King for her enduring legacy, and a recording of Dr Kings was played as a reminder to all of how far we have come, together, and how far we can go if we continue to work together to combat inequality wherever we find it.

Always a crowd pleaser, the Western Addition Drill Team did a Drill-N-Step routine that had the audience on their feet, and which was followed by a presentation from the Mayor’s Office in honor of the Drill Team.



Photo: Barbara Wenger

Some of the talented youth from the neighborhood and the Western Addition Beacon Center at the 4th Annual Black History Month Celebration at John Muir Elementary School.

March Meeting Topics

■ The March meeting will focus on proposed developments on former freeway parcels along Octavia Blvd. Last month the Mayor’s office selected developers for 4 of the market rate parcels, and each of the development teams will make a presentation of their projects to the membership. We will also receive a brief update from the non-profit developer of Octavia Court, the project on the Southwest corner of Oak at Octavia. There is a lot of building proposed for our area, and we will get to work with the development teams for these projects at the beginning of the process.

We will also have a short presentation from a puppeteer who is proposing performances at Patricia’s Green. The neighborhood conceived

of the Green as a gathering place, with public art and performance art adding to the sense of place at the end of the Boulevard. April will bring the installation of the miniature golf course by WowHaus, with each of the holes focusing on a different portion of the area’s history. The possibility of a puppet performance would make the area even more of a draw for families in the area, and we look forward to the presentation.

We will also have updates on the current situation of the Market/Octavia Plan adoption and on UC Extension. As we go to press, both of these projects, which have such a major impact on our neighborhood, have been postponed at the Planning Commission.

Women Making History

By Frances Neagley

On Tuesday, March 6, 2007, the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, along with Mayor Newsom and the Board of Supervisors, presented the “Women Making History” awards in a ceremony at City Hall. The mayor chose one honoree, and eleven others from all over the City were recognized for their community activities in individual supervisorial districts.

Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi chose Gail Baugh to represent District 5. Gail, besides heading the HVNA Public Safety Committee, is president of the newly-formed Parent Teacher Association at John Muir Elementary School. Prior to her involvement with John Muir, Gail had been a long-time advocate for strengthening our local schools, and was very active in the school group which worked all last year to try to stop further school closures in District 5.

There had not been a PTA at John Muir for fifty years, and the changes made by the hard working charter members give hope of positive change. Gail believes that public schools are vital to a healthy neighborhood and community and that a strong PTA will be



Honoree Gail Baugh with Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi at the Women Making History ceremony in the Board of Supervisor's chambers.

critical to the success and well-being of the school. Besides Gail, Supervisor Mirkarimi noted the other charter executive board members (Michael Patton, Richard Johnson and Madeline Behrens-Brigham) in his comments, noting that they all formed the PTA to support the merger of John Swett and John Muir. They continue to dedicate their efforts to the improvement of the welfare of the children who live in the neighborhood.

HVNA Board Elections

At our annual meeting in February, the membership elected the slate put forward by the nominating committee, giving the organization the most diverse Board ever! The nominating committee, comprised of Richard Johnson, Chris Pederson, Hasinah Rahim, Leigh Stackpole and Jim Warshell, was charged by HVNA President Paul Olsen with reflecting the wonderfully diverse neighborhood in which we live. By recruiting people already active in the community, but willing to take on this additional responsibility; we should be able both to do outreach to encourage a more diverse population to be active within the organization as well as be more representative of all facets of the community.

Biographies of the Board are available on the website. Members are: President Paul Olsen;

Vice President Frances Neagley; Treasurer Bill Bulkley; Membership Secretary Jamie Lopez; Corresponding Secretary Jason Henderson; Recording Secretary Adam Millard-Ball; At-Large members Gerri Hayes, Ruby Johnson, Chris Mejia, Horus Tolson and Jim Warshell and Associate member Karen Maundey-Brodek.

Two of our new Board members jumped right into things, with Chris Mejia, long interested in art and our parks introducing Barbara Wenger to speak about the Peace Tile Wall project at Koshland Park; and Ruby Johnson, who has tirelessly worked for the youth in the community introducing a performance by the Western Addition Drill Team. We are looking forward to a very active Board and very active membership!

Traffic Improvements

The Board of Supervisors has passed legislation drafted by D5 Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi that will rescind the morning tow away lane on the North side of Oak Street from Divisadero to Buchanan Streets. For now, the left turn-only tow away lane from Buchanan to Laguna Streets will remain.

As you will recall, HVNA passed a resolution in 2005 and was joined by every other neighborhood group along Oak Street in asking for the tow away lane to be abolished. This will make the sidewalks in the area safer for pedestrians, people with disabilities and baby strollers by having a lane of parked cars as a buffer to the fast moving traffic on Oak Street. Another benefit is that people in the neighborhood can park closer to where they live, and not be forced to drive because of having to move their vehicles in the morning.

There has been much debate about the traffic on Oak and Octavia Streets, and the spill-over to Laguna, Page and Haight Streets in particular. The Transportation Authority is trying to get funding for a regional study to see how traffic patterns can be changed not just at the one intersection, but on feeder streets throughout the City. Studies show that Octavia Blvd is at capacity in the morning commute, as is Oak Street leading to the boulevard. Having extra lanes of traffic just result in more cars in the bottleneck. Oak Street and Octavia Blvd are carrying the same number of vehicles as before the freeway was closed down. The route actually has almost double the amount of vehicles as traveled through the neighborhood after the Oak St on-ramp was closed and before Octavia Blvd was built. During that time, people found other ways to get where they were going, and we are very supportive of a traffic study that will shed light on alternate ways for people to commute.

In the meantime, Supervisor Mirkarimi has assured us he and his staff will pay close attention to the area. A number of measures have been suggested to increase the safety of people, whether in vehicles, bicycles or on foot, and we will continue working with the folks at City Hall to improve the livability in the area.

The Hayes Valley Voice extends its gratitude to **Print & Ship** 1586 Market Street (at Franklin) for their generous support.

February Meeting Highlights

By Jamie Lopez

The February HVNA Meeting was delighted with an all-too-rare performance of the Western Addition Drill Team. Drill Team Members Jahnay James, Tia Covington, Rochelle Swanson, and Jowannah Adams along with Jayden Johnson, entered the meeting room at the First Baptist Church on Octavia marching with form and discipline. Led by Team Captain Tia Covington, the team shook the house in two powerful routines.



Photo: Jamie Lopez

Western Addition Drill Team performed at our February meeting

In celebration of the end of Black History Month 2007, Ruby Johnson (new HVNA Board Member and Program Director/Founder of the “Gathering Our Youth through Positive Beginnings Black History Celebration”) read from “What the World Would Be Like Without Black People”, regarding black inventors, one of the highlights of the event. Just the tip of the iceberg; but a good starting point to give us pause to stop and think.

Ruby was followed by five-year-old Jayden Johnson, who took charge with a spirited interpretation of the poem, “Untitled” by Tupac Shakur the late controversial poet/rap artist/actor.

We all look forward to future performances and participation from members of the Western Addition Drill Team and the other talented members of the neighborhood! If you see these talented kids around the neighborhood, congratulate them on their great work!

UC Extension Update

There are several items of interest regarding the proposed development at UC Extension as we go to press. The Planning Commission is scheduled to discuss the EIR at their next meeting. HVNA has asked the Commission to delay any final actions on this property until the Market Octavia plan has been finalized. As the proposed development at the UC site falls within the center of the Market Octavia plan, we feel that it is very important that we understand the overall scope of the plan as we discuss any development in the plan area. Since it was never anticipated that the UC site would have any change in use, it was not included in any of the Market Octavia planning.

Supervisor Tom Ammiano has been asked to carry legislation at the Board of Supervisors that would allow for zoning changes on the site once a final determination has been made by the Planning Commission. He has kept us informed about the process and assured us that there will be no legislation proposed without our involvement. Supervisor Ammiano has also met with Supervisor Mirkarimi regarding the site, possible development and community input, as Supervisor Mirkarimi has been very involved in all the meetings produced by the developers, the Planning Dept and HVNA. We feel confident that the Supervisors understand the vital importance of an open community process and will continue to work with them regarding this project.

While not everyone agrees on what, if anything, should happen with the UC site, everyone

agrees that a six acre site that has been in the public realm for its entirety must be treated differently than if it were just another private lot. While HVNA sponsored a series of meetings that allowed public participation, we have never wanted to be the final arbiter of what should happen on the site. Long ago we proposed that the Planning Dept conduct a survey which would give input into the needs, present and future, of people in the area. And, as the Market Octavia plan indicates a need for public benefits throughout the area, this idea makes even more sense today. It has been proposed that an impartial needs assessment take place, separate from any proposal of the developer, HVNA, or any other group. We are in favor of such an effort as long as we can be assured of its neutrality, and have offered our support of this effort to Supervisor Ammiano. We should have more information on this topic at our April meeting.

Finally, HVNA member Warren Dewar, who has been very active in the discussion regarding the UC Extension site, forwarded his legal research on the subject of the ownership of Waller Street to the City. We understand that the City Attorney has taken the preliminary position that Waller Street belongs to the City and not to the University of California. At press time, our understanding was that each entity had their title company doing further research into this matter, and it has not yet been resolved. There will be an update on UC Extension at the March 22nd HVNA meeting.

Youth Media Workshop

What: “IMAGES SPEAK WORDS” Media Workshop for Youth

When: March 20 through May 10, 2007

Who: San Francisco Youth, ages 10–18

Description: This innovative eight-week media workshop brings youth from San Francisco’s Western Addition neighborhood together with professional photographers and writers from the Museum of the African Diaspora. Participants will learn how to write and record stories based on a single, carefully-composed digital image. They will learn how to research

family history, interview subjects, produce and edit digital images, record and produce digital audio and write stories, which will be published on MoAD’s web site as pod casts, text, and images. Youth participants will be eligible for a FREE digital camera during the class (if they fulfill course requirements).

Where: Classes will be held at the African American Arts and Culture Complex in San Francisco, located at 762 Fulton Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94102.

To sign up and/or more information, please call (415) 922-2049

School Attendance

By Frances Neagley

One of the big issues facing public schools is attendance. The S.F. Unified School District has a Stay-in-School coalition to oversee the problem, but each school is encouraged to develop its own programs. At John Muir Elementary School, attendance is only 89.13%; but their goal is to bring it to 95% in the next three years. They have tried several different incentive programs, but the most successful one is "Waffles with Wheaton."

Students with good attendance get to choose from a variety of prizes, with the vast majority opting for breakfast with their hard-working principal. On Tuesday, March 13th, the sixty students who had perfect attendance for the previous quarter got to have waffles with Principal Wheaton. The PTA assisted with extra waffle irons and waffle-making. The students very much like the personal touch of having someone actually make waffles for them. As one observer said, it's the new cool!

In other community efforts to encourage good attendance, on Wednesday, April 11th, Mo' Magic, working with the D5 School Network and the Buchanan YMCA, will host a recognition celebration and dinner for 5th graders from the Creative Arts Charter, Grattan, John Muir, New Traditions, KIPP, Rosa Parks and Dr. William Cobb elementary schools who have perfect attendance in the month of March. That event will be held from 5:30pm to 7pm at John Muir Elementary School.

Mo' Magic hopes to recognize all the grades during the next school year, on a quarterly basis. They are looking for community input and support.

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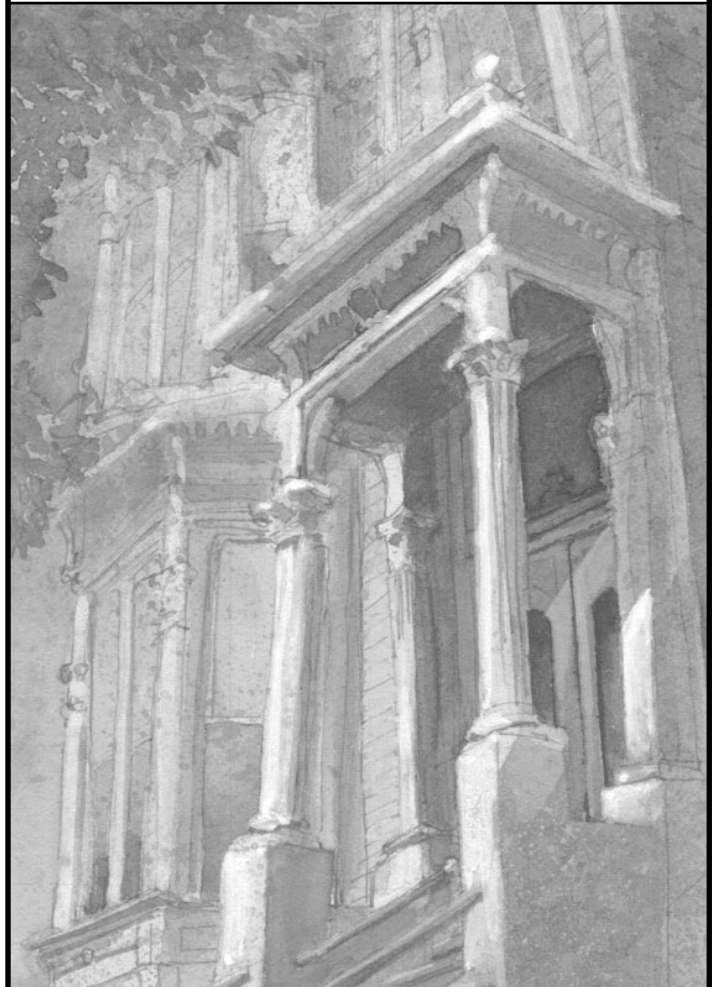


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HVNA Membership Form

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Email (for HVNA use only): _____

■ Membership Levels:

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Limited Income \$15 Individual \$25

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Sponsor \$100 Benefactor \$250

■ Areas of Interest:

Volunteers are welcome! Please indicate your areas of interest.

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Neighborhood Beautification

Neighborhood Safety

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Communications (Newsletter & Web site)

Other: _____

■ Return to:

Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association
PO Box 423978
San Francisco, CA 94142-3978

HVNA Board of Directors

Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association
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San Francisco, CA 94142-3978

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Gerri Hayes

Ruby Johnson

Chris Mejia

Horus Jack Tolson

Jim Warshell

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FREE CONCERT

Third Sunday Series

at Church of the Advent



Concert & Open Reception at 4 pm

April 15

Sarah Gillies,
baroque violin

Joanna Blendulf,
baroque cello

May 20

Jesse Antin,
countertenor

Kevin Baum, *tenor*
Matthew Walsh, *organ*



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mar
march 2007

03.21, Wednesday 11am-1pm

Mo' Magic Community Meeting
AAACC 3rd Floor located at 767 Fulton (at Webster). Mo'Magic is a collaboration of organizations, city agencies and community members working together make a difference in the lives of children, youth and their families in the Western Addition. Contact info: Sheryl Davis at sheryl.davis@sfgov.org or mo_magic@msn.com

03.22, Thursday 6-7pm

Hayes Valley NERT - Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Team
First Baptist Church Basement 7 Octavia (at Waller). Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Meeting. Contact info: mail@hayesvalleynert.org

03.22, Thursday 7-9pm

H.V.N.A. General Meeting
First Baptist Church Basement 7 Octavia (at Waller). Topic: Octavia Blvd Parcels. Contact info: www.hayesvalleysf.org

apr
april 2007

04.02, Monday 7-8pm

H.V.N.A. Public Safety Committee
1st Monday of each month Hayes Valley South Community Room 403 Rose (at Buchanan). Contact info: safety@hayesvalleysf.org

04.04, Wednesday 11am-1pm

Mo' Magic Community Meeting
AAACC 3rd Floor located at 767 Fulton (at Webster). See 03.21 listing for more info about Mo'Magic. Contact info: Sheryl Davis at sheryl.davis@sfgov.org or mo_magic@msn.com

04.04, Wednesday 7-9pm

District 5 Together
1st Wednesday of each month Northern Police Community Room 1125 Fillmore (at Turk), parking Contact info: www.sf5together.org

04.11, Wednesday 5:30-8pm

Mo'Magic Recognition Ceremony and Dinner
John Muir Elementary 380 Webster (at Oak). Join Mo' Magic as we recognize the good that happens in the community and to encourage our youth to stay in school. Contact info: mo_magic@msn.com or 558-2487

04.12, Thursday 4-5pm

John Muir PTA Meeting
380 Webster (at Oak) in parent room #29 1st floor. Join faculty, students, parents and concerned community members as we partner to assure quality education for all children. Community Welcome. Contact information: 626-6120 or g.baugh@sbcglobal.net PTA President

04.12, Thursday 6-7pm

Northern District Police/Community Relations Forum
Work with police, city attorney & district attorney's offices to find permanent solutions to ongoing safety issues. Northern Police station, 1125 Fillmore (at Turk) Parking is available Contact info: Captain Dillon 614-3400 or Kevin.Dillon@sfgov.org

04.14, Saturday 11am-2pm

Monthly Koshland Park Work Day
Meet at Koshland Park basketball court Corner of Page and Buchanan Help make your park a clean, green and safe space. Contact info: Nora at noraborealis@juno.com or 424-5770

04.18, Wednesday 11am-1pm

Mo' Magic Community Meeting
AAACC 3rd Floor located at 767 Fulton (at Webster). See 03.21 listing for more info about Mo'Magic. Contact info: Sheryl Davis at sheryl.davis@sfgov.org or mo_magic@msn.com

04.26, Thursday 6-7pm

Hayes Valley NERT - Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Team & Training
First Baptist Church, 7 Octavia (at Waller) Disaster Response and Safety Planning Contact info: mail@hayesvalleynert.org Topic: Annual Block Captain Review: **ALL BLOCK CAPTAINS PLEASE ATTEND!** Bonus: Celebrate Jamie's Birthday and the 21st Anniversary of Chernobyl with cake! (cake NOT from the Ukraine.)

04.26, Thursday 7-8:30pm

H.V.N.A. General Meeting
First Baptist Church Basement 7 Octavia (at Waller). Topic: MTA Traffic Study. Contact info: www.hayesvalleysf.org

04.28, Saturday 6-11pm

Mo'Magic Youth Dance
AAACC 762 Fulton (at Webster) Western Addition Youth dance for ages 13-18. Contact info: Sheryl Davis at sheryl.davis@sfgov.org or mo_magic@msn.com

may
may 2007

05.02, Wednesday 11am-1pm

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AAACC 3rd Floor located at 767 Fulton (at Webster). See 03.21 listing for more info about Mo'Magic. Contact info: Sheryl Davis at sheryl.davis@sfgov.org or mo_magic@msn.com

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District 5 Together
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Upcoming HVNA Meetings

Thursdays, 7pm

Mar 22 • Apr 26 • May 24

05.07, Monday 7-8pm

H.V.N.A. Public Safety Committee
Hayes Valley South Community Room 403 Rose (at Buchanan) Contact info: safety@hayesvalleysf.org

05.10, Thursday 4-5pm

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380 Webster (at Oak) in parent room #29 1st floor. Join faculty, students, parents and concerned community members as we partner to assure quality education for all children. Community Welcome. Contact information: 626-6120 or g.baugh@sbcglobal.net PTA President

05.10, Thursday 6-7pm

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AAACC 3rd Floor located at 767 Fulton (at Webster). See 03.21 listing for more info about Mo'Magic. Contact info: Sheryl Davis at sheryl.davis@sfgov.org or mo_magic@msn.com

05.24, Thursday 6-7pm

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First Baptist Church Basement 7 Octavia (at Waller). Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Meeting. Contact info: mail@hayesvalleynert.org

05.24, Thursday 7-9pm

H.V.N.A. General Meeting
First Baptist Church Basement 7 Octavia (at Waller). Topic & contact info: www.hayesvalleysf.org

05.30, Wednesday 11am-1pm

Mo' Magic Community Meeting
AAACC 3rd Floor located at 767 Fulton (at Webster). See 03.21 listing for more info about Mo'Magic. Contact info: Sheryl Davis at sheryl.davis@sfgov.org or mo_magic@msn.com