

# The HAYES VALLEY Voice

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February-March 2010



## President's Column

By Frances Neagley



I know it is still winter but the sun has been shining for a couple of days and there are some spring-like things happening here in Hayes Valley.

I can look out my kitchen window onto Octavia Boulevard, between Oak and Page Streets, and see all the work that has been happening on the community garden that is the collaboration between Project Homeless Connect and HVNA. The asphalt is gone and there is some new soil and gravel pathways with recycled granite curbs as borders. Some of the wooden borders for the planting beds are up and planting should begin by the end of the month.

Across Octavia Boulevard, the first of the new housing units is going up at the corner of Oak Street. The construction has been going on for some time but it is really starting to look like a building now.

Not far away, closer to Laguna Street, Hayes Valley Farm is preparing the big parcel that used to be where the freeway came down onto Fell Street into an even bigger community garden. They have had some big groups of volunteers from the neighborhood and around the City working with them.

*Continued on page 2*

## Change Comes to the Neighborhood

Symbolizing the changes happening in the neighborhood is this shot of the demolition of the old Hayes Valley Playground at Hayes and Buchanan Streets. A public-private venture of Trust for Public Land and the City's Dept of Park and Rec, and supported by HVNA, the new Playground and Clubhouse will be more welcoming in both style and programming.

Other changes are happening in the neighborhood as well. HVNA will be holding elections at the February meeting. President

Frances Neagley will be one of the leaders stepping into the background, and we all owe her and other HVNA Board members a debt of gratitude for all the hard work they have done here in the 'hood.

One more obvious change in the 'hood is the recent installation of a towering new sculpture on Patricia's Green. Be sure to check it out, as well as the articles about Patricia's Green inside!

## Local Grammy Winners

Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association congratulates local arts organizations: San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Girls Chorus on their recent Grammy wins. On Sunday January 31st, three GRAMMY® awards were given to their recording, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas, of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 in E flat major, Symphony of a Thousand, which was recorded live in Davies Symphony Hall in November, 2008. The recording won in

all three nominated categories which were Best Classical Album, Best Choral Performance, and Best Engineered Classical Album.

The San Francisco Girl's Chorus's home is on Page Street, not far from Davies. They will be performing with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in their upcoming Classics Concert on June 12. For more information, see [www.sfgmc.org](http://www.sfgmc.org).

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

From page 1

Spring is sort of the time for newness and changes and in keeping with that theme, it is time for the election of new officers and board members for HVNA. We are striving to bring in new members with new ideas to the board. We will be electing these officers at the meeting later this month on February 25th. While only members can participate in the election, I hope you will all come out to meet and support all our officers. And of course, it is never too late to join or renew your membership in HVNA.

This will be my last presidential column. I will still be around the neighborhood and at the general meetings, but I am one of the older members making way for the new, younger influences. I look forward to the changing of the seasons and the changing of our board and wish them all the best.

## Communication

One of the biggest tasks of Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association is communicating not only with our membership, but with all of our neighbors. Our web site offers much information and we send out email news updates periodically. However, the vast majority of our communication is done via The Hayes Valley Voice.

This is a process involving dozens of neighbors, and one that has gotten us glowing reviews, as well as requests to do more. Since producing the Voice, like everything else we do, is a volunteer effort, we do as much as we can (and then some). For more details, please see the complete article at [www.hayesvalleysf.org](http://www.hayesvalleysf.org). To get more involved in the production of the Voice, please contact Paul Olsen at [voice@hayesvalleysf.org](mailto:voice@hayesvalleysf.org).

### UPCOMING HVNA MEETINGS

Thursdays, 7pm

Feb. 25, March 25, April 22

To advertise in this newsletter or submit ideas, articles and comments, please email [voice@hayesvalleysf.org](mailto:voice@hayesvalleysf.org)

## Tending Patricia's Green

by Henry Ostendorf

This weekend I literally pulled my stakes from the ground in Patricia's Green. It gives me great pleasure to see my year of clandestine gardening caught the attention of the neighborhood and SF Rec and Park. This month, after a full 12 months of prodding, City signage went up to remind inattentive dog owners that the plant beds are for plants - not dogs. Did you know that a plastic bag can save you \$320? Health Code Sec. 40 (a)(b). Now that dog owners have been duly advised, Park Rangers will ticket without warning.

Rec and Park staff advise that Patricia's Green is being "restored" to the specifications from original landscaping plans. New soil, shrubs and bedding plants are being planted weekly. James Wheeler, Rec and Park Supervisor, has agreed that an "ornamental barrier" to protect

the plantings is a "good idea" and he's seeking funds to pay for it.

Now, regretfully to some and a relief to others, the cascading strawberry bed I constructed over the Thanksgiving holiday was removed and will soon be relocated to the Growing Home community gardens on Octavia Blvd (at Lily). I will continue to spend my gardening hours both there and at the newly opened Hayes Valley Farm. I'm confident Patricia's Green is now in good hands under the skillful watch of a half-time gardener, Marianne. Concerns, comments and compliments about the Green can be addressed to [James.Wheeler@sfgov.org](mailto:James.Wheeler@sfgov.org)



## Confessions of a Clandestine Gardener

It is with great pride that I claim the label "gardening outlaw". Please permit me to share my story of ruin, recovery and redemption in Hayes Valley.

It was a year ago during the rainy season and I was new to the streets of Hayes Valley. It was a damp, cold morning. Day was just breaking and I had had a rough night. A woman I knew as Gail smiled as she passed by. I trailed her to the edge of Patricia's Green. "Hey handsome, you need a friend?", she called out? I nodded and came closer. She reached into her pocket, then extended her hand. In it was a small packet of sunflower seeds. "Here you go Sugar..." she gave me a nod, "Go on, and try it". Looking back in time I now realize we were standing under the ghost of the Central Freeway at the Fell Street underpass.

Gail knew who she was dealing with - an easy target. Me a kid, not much money in my pocket but enough for more of what she was selling.

I wasn't really sure it was right...you know: planting a seed in a city park. Could I get in

trouble, embarrass myself, my family? I tried to rationalize my desires. "The park really isn't looking good anyway." Neglected by staffing shortages and tight funding, "Who cares what happens here?", I thought.

Chances are life would sprout as it will, only to be crushed by a lovable, but unattended dog with one step (or jump, trample, dig, poop, pee, puke, roll over and play dead) anyway. Bad things happen in the tough city.

Now, I try to follow the rules of decent society. It generally seems like a good idea. Gail, knowing the streets better than me, picked up on my hesitation. She tried to comfort me saying, "It's really pure stuff from my homies at SFNPC".

I'd heard about SF Neighborhood Parks' Council and I knew they had moved into the hood with a crib on Hayes. If I was ever going to survive in Hayes Valley, the moment to prove myself was now!

....To be continued in a future Voice

# Hayes Valley Farm Update

Noticed any activity on Parcels "O" and "P", a.k.a. the old on- and off-ramps between Fell and Oak, Laguna and Octavia? Thanks to all of the support, enthusiasm, and energy of the community, and especially all of the neighbors and volunteers who believed in the project, Hayes Valley Farm is no longer an idea. It is actually happening!

Hayes Valley Farm (HVF) is an education and research project with a focus on urban agriculture. Situated on the city-owned lots where highway 101 once touched down, the project is organized by an alliance of urban farmers, educators, and designers that comprise the HVF Project Team. HVF is a Parks Partner, a fiscally sponsored project of the San Francisco Parks Trust.

The project is founded on an interim use agreement between Hayes Valley Farm and the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development- a two to five year time frame - until which time the City moves forward with other development plans for the site.

**Work parties at the new Hayes Valley Farm**

In case you missed the last few weekends at the

farm, the gates are open.... so come see what it's all about and get dirty with us! Rain or shine, we'll be out there turning cardboard, manure and wood chips into soil. Join in with over 400 volunteers who have already spent time having fun!

Work Parties, Sundays, 1-4pm

Work Parties, Thursdays, 2:30-6:30pm

FIRST TIMERS - Please come to Volunteer Orientation, Sundays, 12:30pm

For more on how to participate in upcoming events, classes, and opportunities at HVF, visit: [www.HayesValleyFarm.com](http://www.HayesValleyFarm.com)



Photo: William Ulrich

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## Upcoming Meetings

The February meeting of Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association will be held on Thursday, February 25th, 2010. The meeting will include the election of Officers and Members of the HVNA Board of Directors, a presentation on Hayes Valley Farm, an update from the Transportation and Planning committee about development in the neighborhood, and the opportunity to sign up to take part in an upcoming survey of the 55

Laguna site (UC Berkeley Extension) where no development is currently happening, but where neglect is taking its toll on the property and the surrounding neighborhood.

On March 25th, HVNA will focus on Greening in the neighborhood, and the many opportunities we have to participate, whether owners or renters, with yards or surrounded by concrete. Earth Day is April 22nd, coinciding with April's HVNA meeting, and in advance of

the day we will discuss how each and all of us can make this a greener, better, place to live.

Please come, and participate. You don't have to be a member of HVNA to participate in our meetings, although membership dues support our activities and many neighborhood projects. (You must be a member of HVNA to vote in the upcoming Board election.)



Garden Parcel along Octavia

Photo: William Ulrich

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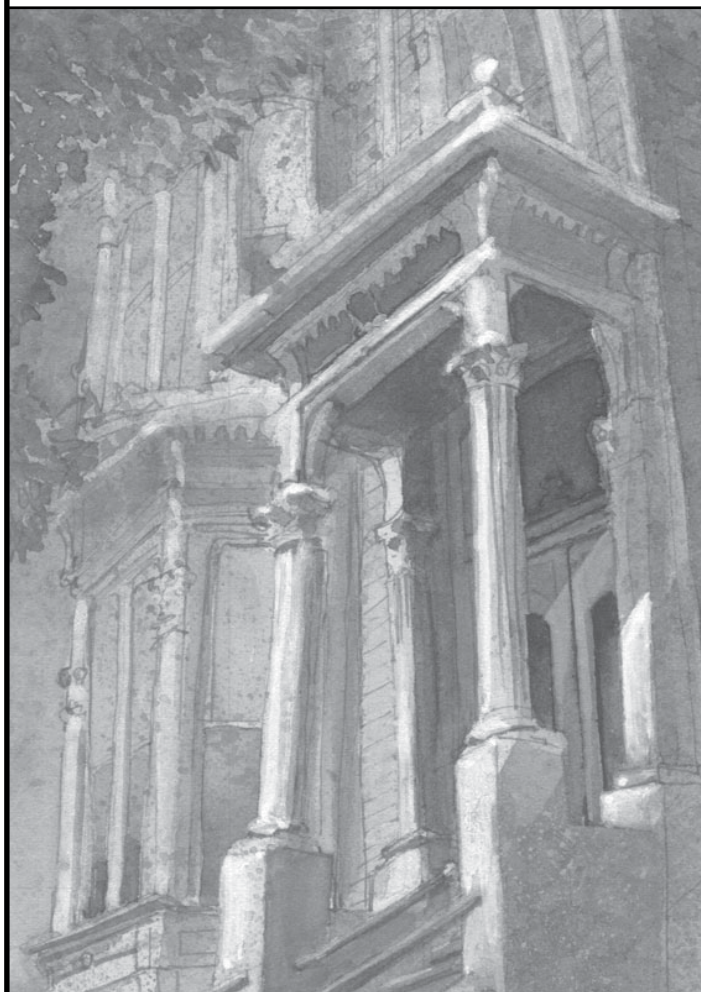
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## HVNA Membership Form

Join Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association. Just return your completed form with a personal check made payable to **Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association**.

### Your information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for HVNA mailing use only): \_\_\_\_\_

### 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**

I am a: ☐ Returning Member ☐ New Member

☐ Limited Income \$15

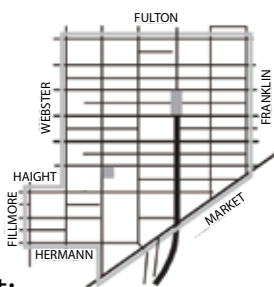
☐ Individual \$25

☐ Families/Dual Members \$35

☐ Sponsor \$100

☐ Benefactor \$250

☐ Business \$100



### Areas of Interest:

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

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Return to:

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

## HVNA Board of Directors

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

Frances Neagley, *President*  
president@hayesvalleysf.org

Karen Mauney-Brodek, *Vice President*  
vicepresident@hayesvalleysf.org

Jim Warshell, *Treasurer*

Richard Johnson, *Membership Secretary*  
membership@hayesvalleysf.org

Jason Henderson, *Corresponding Secretary*  
info@hayesvalleysf.org

Jamie Lopez, *Recording Secretary*

Bill Bulkley

Nathan Lozier

Henry Osten

Sharon Reaves

Kassim Visram

## HVNA Committees

### Arts, Culture and Environment

Bill Bulkley  
art@hayesvalleysf.org

### Business Relations

Jim Warshell  
business@hayesvalleysf.org

### Communications

Paul Olsen  
voice@hayesvalleysf.org

### Families and Children

Richard Johnson  
safety@hayesvalleysf.org

### Newsletter

Editor: Paul Olsen  
voice@hayesvalleysf.org

Layout: William Ulrich  
azurecricket@me.com  
azurecricket.com

### Public Safety

Bob Barnwell  
safety@hayesvalleysf.org

### Transportation and Planning

Jason Henderson  
planning@hayesvalleysf.org

## Support HVNA Business Members

Please patronize the following business and institutional members of our community, and thank them for their involvement in the neighborhood:

Absinthe

AgeSong

Arlequin Wine Merchant and Food to Go

Gimme Shoes

Gruber and Gruber Properties

LGBT Community Center

Kim Makoi, Chiropractor

McRoskey Mattress Company

Nancy Boy

National Center for International Schools

Octavis Lounge's Triple Crown openhouse

The Parsonage Bed and Breakfast

Pearl Investment Company

Rossmann and Moore, LLP

Charles W Roth, CPA

Samovar Tea Lounge

San Francisco Ballet

San Francisco Community Recyclers

San Francisco Opera

San Francisco Symphony

SFJAZZ

Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP

Tax Matters, LLC

Through the Hayes Optometry

West Bay Housing

Western Addition Beacon Center

Zen Hospice Project

The above is a partial listing. Our businesses and institutions are valued members of the community, and we very much appreciate their support. We update the listing in each issue.

**Bold type** signifies those businesses supporting HVNA at the Benefactor Level. We thank them for that additional support.

We extend our gratitude to **Print & Ship** 1586 Market Street for their generous support of our publication.





Photo: Helen Kim

## Next Door Neighbors

by Bob Barnwell

Uniqueness is one of the traits we love in Hayes Valley. We are blessed with a number of unique stores and small businesses. Some have been here a long time, while others have had several locations before reaching our community. As you walk around the neighborhood, you will see two of the more unique shops next door to each other on Fell St. Isotope—The Comic Book Lounge and Urban Knitting Studio provide services that are known throughout the city, the Bay Area and the country.

Isotope—The Comic Book Lounge has been at 326 Fell St. for over 5 years. The owner, James Sime, was eyeing Hayes Valley for over four years while he was in another neighborhood. He was most happy when the Fell St. location opened up. When you walk in you see three large couches for people to lounge and read the comic books. James' customers are readers and collectors.

He is host to events that include upcoming late February or early March readings at his store. There is a comic book convention in the city in April, and he will host readings by three of the top comic book creators in the country: Darwyn Cooke, Jimmy Palmiotti and Amanda Conner. There are several areas to lounge in the store, and upstairs there is an artist installation where creators can design and draw their

comics – sometimes with customers viewing the creations. 326 Fell St. is where to be and Isotopecomics.com is where to look for this well-known store in our neighborhood.

Besides being next door, Urban Knitting Studio shares a lot of customers with Isotope—The Comic Book Lounge. Helen Kim, the owner, has been at 320 Fell St. for 7 years. Her store is designed for people to share ideas, learn from what others are knitting, and develop friendships in the knitting community. There are hundreds of unique yarns for use in knitting and crocheting.

The store's goal is to teach about the art of knitting. Helen's background is in architecture – a similar approach, just with a different medium. At her store you design and construct with yarn. People from all over the city come to 320 Fell St. to learn and practice with the many types and colors of yarn. Stop by Fell St. between Octavia and Gough to see some long-term small businesses in our community.



## Seeking Multicultural Fellows

The San Francisco Foundation is now recruiting for the 2010-2012 Multicultural Fellowship Program. They are seeking one Fellow in Education, Arts & Culture, and Environment (3 in total). Applications are due 3/22 and the Fellowship positions will commence July 1, 2010.

The Multicultural Fellowship Program is a two-year full-time program that aims to increase diversity in the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. Successful candidates are young professionals of color with the promise and passion to create significant social change. The Fellowship provides challenging work and professional development experiences, on-the-job training, and opportunities to enhance skills in grant-making, convening, project management, and a variety of other areas.

Detailed information about the Fellowship application process and information sessions is available at [www.sff.org/multicultural-fellowship](http://www.sff.org/multicultural-fellowship). Thank you for your help as we work to cultivate the next generation of community leaders to reflect the diversity of our area.

## Safety Tips from Northern Police Station

We have noticed that the prime target of a suspected street robber is a person walking down the street or on the transit system, including while riding MUNI, minding their own business, oblivious to what is going on around them, and carrying an iPod or iPhone style cellular phone (iPhone/Blackberry). Here are some tips on how to stay safe while enjoying your iPod or cellular phones:

- Make all necessary phone calls prior to leaving your location, thus avoiding phone exposure.
- Keep cell phones, iPhones, and iPods concealed in your pockets while in public.
- Always be alert and aware of your surroundings. If you're listening to the iPod or cell phone, you're not paying attention.
- If threatened, yell or make noise to draw attention to the situation.
- When walking home, remain on well-traveled, populated streets.
- Walk with confidence and if possible, with another person. If you believe someone is following or watching you, move directly to a more populated area or location such as an open store.
- Your safety is important to us. Take these simple steps to avoid cell phone and iPod thefts, as they could deter crime.

## FEBRUARY

### 02.20, Saturday 11-2 pm

Koshland Park Gardening 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 nora@communitygrows.org or 424-5770

### 02.25, Thursday 7-9 pm

**H.V.N.A. General Meeting**  
Bridge Housing Community Room  
333 Fell (btwn Octavia & Gough)  
Topic: Board Elections & Hayes Valley Farm. Contact info: hayesvalleysf.org

### 02.26, Friday 11 am

**Coffee with Principal Wheaton**  
**John Muir Elementary Cafeteria**  
380 Webster (at Oak) • Join parents, staff and community members to share coffee and discussion.  
Contact info: Lisa at 241-6335 or johnmuirparents@gmail.com

### 02.26, Friday 10 am

**John Muir Elementary**  
**Black History Celebration**  
380 Webster (at Oak)  
Contact info: 241-6335

## MARCH

### 03.01, Monday 7:00 pm

**H.V.N.A. Public Safety Committee**  
1st Monday of each Month  
Korean American Center  
745 Buchanan (at Grove). Contact info: Bob at safety@hayesvalleysf.org

### 03.04, Thursday 11am-1 pm

**Mo' Magic Community Meeting**  
African American Arts & Culture Complex 3rd Floor located at 762 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: Robin Jackson at 563-5207 or momagicadmin@gmail.com

### 03.06, Saturday 1-5 pm

**Hamilton Recreation Center**  
Located at Steiner & Geary Street  
Community invited to Grand Opening  
Contact: James at 831-2790 or James.Wheeler@sfgov.org

### 03.10, Wednesday 9 am

**John Muir PTA Meeting.**  
John Muir Elementary • 380 Webster (at Oak). Join faculty, students, parents and concerned community members as we partner to assure quality education for every student.  
Contact: Lisa at 241-6335 or johnmuirparents@gmail.com

### 03.11, Thursday 6-7 pm

**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 Mannix at 614-3407 or Ann.Mannix@sfgov.org

### 03.18, Thursday 11am-1 pm

**Mo' Magic Community Meeting**  
African American Arts & Culture Complex 3rd Floor located at 762 Fulton (at Webster) (See 03.04 listing)  
Contact: Robin Jackson at 563-5207 or momagicadmin@gmail.com

### 03.25, Thursday 7-8:30pm

**H.V.N.A. General Meeting**  
Bridge Housing Community Room  
333 Fell (btwn Octavia & Gough)  
Different Aspects of Greening  
Contact info: www.hayesvalleysf.org

### 03.26, Friday 9 am

**Coffee with Principal Wheaton**  
John Muir Elementary Cafeteria  
380 Webster (at Oak) • Join parents, staff and community members to share coffee and discussion.  
Contact: Lisa at 241-6335 or johnmuirparents@gmail.com

### 03.27, Saturday 10 am-1 pm

**Patricia's Green Gardening Day**  
Friends and neighbors meet at Hayes & Octavia for park clean up. Tools, gloves and supplies provided for all. Contact Henry to confirm date & details at 626-6906 or green@hayesvalleysf.org.

## APRIL

### 04.01, Thursday 11am-1 pm

**Mo' Magic Community Meeting**  
African American Arts & Culture Complex 3rd Floor located at 762 Fulton (at Webster) (See 03.04 listing)  
Contact: Robin Jackson at 563-5207 or momagicadmin@gmail.com

### 04.05, Monday 7-8:00 pm

**H.V.N.A. Public Safety Committee**  
Korean American Center  
745 Buchanan (at Grove)  
1st Monday of each month. Contact Bob at safety@hayesvalleysf.org

### 04.08, Thursday 6-7 pm

**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 Mannix at 614-3407 or Ann.Mannix@sfgov.org

### 04.14, Wednesday 9 am

**John Muir PTA Meeting**  
John Muir Elementary  
380 Webster (at Oak)  
(See 03.10 listing for details)  
Contact: Lisa at 241-6335 or johnmuirparents@gmail.com

### 04.15, Thursday 11am-1 pm

**Mo' Magic Community Meeting**  
African American Arts & Culture Complex 3rd Floor located at 762 Fulton (at Webster) (See 03.04 listing)  
Contact: Robin Jackson at 563-5207 or momagicadmin@gmail.com

### 04.17, Saturday 11-2 pm

**Koshland Garden Community Workday** • Corner of Page and Buchanan • Come celebrate Earth Day with us by getting your hands in the dirt and helping out in your community garden! Contact info: Nora at nora@communitygrows.org or 424-5770

### 04.22, Thursday 7-8:30 pm

**H.V.N.A. General Meeting**  
Bridge Housing Community Room  
333 Fell (btwn Octavia & Gough)  
Topic &  
Contact info: www.hayesvalleysf.org

### 04.24, Saturday 9am-3pm

**Lily Street Annual Yard Sale**  
Additional Info: Richard at cpusf.founded2002@sbcglobal.net



Photo: William Ulrich

To advertise in this newsletter or submit ideas, articles and comments, please email voice@hayesvalleysf.org

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

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## UPCOMING HVNA MEETINGS

Thursdays, 7pm  
Feb. 25, March 25, April 22

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Police: Anonymous Tip Line . . . 614 3451  
Police: Emergency (anon.) . . . 553 8090  
Police: Northern Station . . . . 614 3400  
All City Departments: . . . . . 311