



# HAIA

*Joint Resident and Merchant Group  
Formed at the turn of the 20th Century  
Incorporated in 1950*

Summer 2006

**General Boundaries are 17th Street on the south, Fulton on the north,  
Divisadero on the east and Arguello on the west**

A Bit of History...

## IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK...



**LAKE ALVORD BRIDGE**

The Lake Alford Bridge was the first reinforced concrete bridge built in America. It was built in 1889 by Ernest L. Ransome, an innovator in reinforced concrete design, mixing equipment, and construction systems. The bridge was constructed as a single arch 64-feet wide with a 20-foot span. Ransome is believed to have used his patented cold-twisted square steel bar for reinforcement, placed longitudinally in the arch and curved in the same arc. The face of the bridge was scored and hammered to resemble sandstone.

E.L. Ransome left San Francisco a few years later, frustrated and bitter at the building community's indifference to concrete construction. Ironically, the city's few reinforced concrete structures, including the Lake Alford Bridge, survived the 1906 earthquake and fire in remarkable shape, vindicating Ransome's faith in the method.

The Lake Alford Bridge, which arches over a pedestrian entrance to San Francisco's Golden Gate park, was designated a civil engineering landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers in the 1970's. *From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

DID YOU KNOW? ALVORD LAKE WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1882. McLAREN DESIGNED THE PARK. HE WAS HELPED BY A DUTCH GARDENER, ALVORD, FOR WHOM AN ARTIFICIAL LAKE, ALVORD LAKE, WAS NAMED.

**HAIA is participating in the Alford Lake Task Force...page 2**

## CALENDAR

**HAIA  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 19TH**

**MEETING TOPIC: Development of a Neighborhood-serving Grocery, Housing and below-ground parking at the Cala site at Haight and Stanyan**

**Park Branch Library Community Room @ 6:30**



**Stanyan Street Elevation - Preliminary Plans - NOT Final**

### **HAIA Board Meetings**

**August 16th, September 20th**

**6:30pm at Urban School on Page near Masonic  
Open to All HAIA Members**

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE LET US KNOW - WE CAN SEND IT BY EMAIL OR SNAIL MAIL - OR OUR NEWSLETTERS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE (*noted below*)

**HAIA's Fall Newsletter will be out in October**

**HAIA PO Box SF CA 94117**  
[haia\\_sf@yahoo.com](mailto:haia_sf@yahoo.com)  
<http://haia-sf.com>

## ALVORD LAKE TASK FORCE NEWS

Captain John Ehrlich, Park Station has called on the Alvord Lake Task Force and the community to mobilize and help develop a plan for action to address public safety and quality of life issues in response to a growing number of community complaints of violence as well as inappropriate and illegal behavior by youth and young adults living in GG Park and on the streets of the Haight.

*Currently on the ALTF table is discussion regarding showers being made available at Kezar Stadium or the GG Park tennis courts, as well as the question of needle depositories in park toilets and in the park landscape. (See page 7 for the results of the HAIA Membership poll regarding "biohazard sharps containers"). Please contact HAIA with your opinion at [haia\\_sf@yahoo.com](mailto:haia_sf@yahoo.com) or call 221-5567*

### HAIA ADDRESSES "QUALITY OF LIFE" INFRINGEMENTS

Haight Ashbury Improvement Association (HAIA) has initiated a resolution to address policy regarding "quality of life" crimes in San Francisco. "Quality of life" crimes such as public inebriation, urination, aggressive panhandling, encampment and obstructing sidewalks constitute infractions and as such are channeled through the Traffic Division of the San Francisco Superior Court. Infractions are distinct from misdemeanors and felonies, which are under the purview of the District Attorney's office.

Infractions for "quality of life" crimes carry a statutory fine at present. However, routinely the infraction is dismissed or the fine is reduced to a minimal fee, which is then often paid by an intercessor rather than the individual who incurred the infraction. Community service is currently available for those who cannot afford to pay fines but is seldom, if ever, used for "quality of life" infractions. HAIA has authored, in cooperation with Cole Valley Improvement Association (CVIA), the following resolution to advocate for city policy that Traffic Court Commissioners be directed to maintain statutory fines for "quality of life" infractions and that community service, as a matter of course, be made available to those who cannot pay.

Over the next months we look forward to visiting other neighborhood and merchant associations throughout the city to garner city-wide co-signors.

Cheryl Brodie, HAIA President



#### RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO TO ADOPT A POLICY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AS RESTITUTION FOR "QUALITY OF LIFE" INFRINGEMENTS IN LIEU OF DISMISSAL OR REDUCTION OF STATUTORY FINES.

WHEREAS, San Francisco municipal "quality of life" laws prohibit such behaviors as aggressive panhandling, public inebriation, public urination, encampment, and obstructing sidewalks and constitute infraction violations in San Francisco and as such are punishable by fines, and

2 WHEREAS, San Francisco's current system for processing "quality of life" law violators involves citing for infractions and processing cases at the Traffic Division of the San Francisco Superior Court, and

WHEREAS, the court's routine dismissal of "quality of life" infractions results in lack of consequences which, in turn, adversely affects our community by encouraging increased aggressiveness as well as more serious criminal activity, and

WHEREAS, the lack of consequences has led to "enabling" personal choices that are often life-threatening and cruel to those living on our streets, and

WHEREAS, if those charged cannot afford to pay their fines, they may be eligible to participate in community service programs that currently exist; "Project 20" for adults and Juvenile Probation Community Service for minors, and

WHEREAS, community service would establish reasonable consequences for infractions with the added benefit of productively engaging an individual in the community for a specified period of time, be it then

RESOLVED that it become policy that statutory fines for "quality of life" infractions processed at the Superior Court's Traffic Division be maintained, and the option of performing community service for equivalent hours be offered.

### DRUG DEALERS AS TOURIST ATTRACTION?

HAIA found the following posted on the internet...

"The Alvord Lake entrance to the park (across from the MacDonalds [sic] on Haight Street) has been declared a "Drug-Free Zone." That means increased fines for the sale or possession of illegal substances.

The "shopping" district has moved out of the park to the sidewalk near Cala. High school kids seem to buy drugs on the street all the time, but I don't know anyone personally who has performed a quality check. [Lorelei's note: the Haight Street entrance to the park has historically been a major drug dealing area, especially for heroin.] You may be offered buds and doses, but you must ask for anything harsher. Beware of the people in the lime green T-shirts. They are neighborhood vigilantes who don't need a good reason to follow or harass freaks." (HAIA Note: Lorelei must have visited during the days of RAD - Residents Against Druggies)

<http://www.browbeat.com/browbeat01/letstrip.htm>

By Lorelei Dot



#### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Forward your safety ideas or concerns to HAIA at [haia\\_sf@yahoo.com](mailto:haia_sf@yahoo.com). HAIA is participating in the Alvord Lake Task Force. Or contact Park Police at [sfpd.park.station@sfgov.org](mailto:sfpd.park.station@sfgov.org)

SF Recreation and Parks Department urges the public to report crime, camping, fires, loud noise to the police (415)553-0123 when observed in any park location. Emergencies should always be reported to 9-1-1,

## MERCHANT MEMBER PROFILE:

### BOOKSMITH

1644 HAIGHT STREET

Since The Booksmith was established in 1976 it has been the Haight's main source for new books and magazines. As its reputation has grown, so has its stellar list of authors who have appeared in its monthly author event program. Through the years The Booksmith has proudly hosted such luminaries as Hunter Thompson, Allen Ginsberg, Sonny Barger, Richard Avedon, Neil Young, Timothy Leary, Bob Weir, to name a few. All events are free and provide an opportunity for a customer to hear an author speak, buy a signed book and even pick up a Booksmith Author Trading Card, of which there have been more than 850 editions.



As The Booksmith approaches its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the future of independent bookselling looks challenging. Recently, several Bay Area Independent bookstores have announced that they are closing or are for sale. These stores are victims of sales declines due to increasing on-line book sales, primarily through Amazon.com. Though most book shoppers would agree that there is nothing like wandering through a bookstore and reading, touching, smelling the books, the draw of Amazon for some of these very people is irresistible. It is not hard to visualize the future of bookselling in America where the big box retailers and Amazon are the only players and independent bookstores, who provided important links to their communities through their author events, their professional sales staffs and their carefully selected stock, will be a fond memory.

#### JULY AUTHOR EVENTS AT THE BOOKSMITH

All Reading & Book Signings at 7 pm [www.booksmith.com](http://www.booksmith.com)

#### LEWIS BUZBEE, *The Yellow-Lighted Bookshop*

Thursday, July 6th

In light of recent developments in the Bay Area bookselling community, there may be no timelier book than Lewis Buzbee's passionate collection of essays, *The Yellow-Lighted Bookshop*. This new book celebrates the unique experience of the bookstore - the smell and touch of books, getting lost in the shelves, and the silent community of readers.

#### GAUTAM MALKANI, *"Londonstani"*

Monday, July 17th

Gautam Malkani's debut novel, *Londonstani*, is set among the South Asian rudeboys of London's Houndslow section. Hilarious and grim, raucous and anguished, this extraordinary comic novel portrays the lives of young Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu men in the ethnically charged enclave where all is in flux.

#### BARBARA TRAUB, *"Desert to Dream"*

Friday, July 21st

*Desert to Dream* is a pictorial record of [Burning Man], from its beginnings as performance art to its explosion into a pop culture happening. Photographer Barbara Traub captures the sacred and profane, from inspired costumes to otherworldly artifacts that defy convention.

#### JOHN DEAN, *"Conservatives Without Conscience"*

Thursday, July 27th

John Dean, White House legal counsel to President Nixon and the best-selling author of *Worse Than Watergate*, has authored *Conservatives Without Conscience* - a sincere, well-considered look at how conservative politics in the U.S. is veering dangerously close to authoritarianism.

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT BOOSTORE!**

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## PANHANDLE TOILETS OPEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...



Photo by Susan Strolis

Supervisor Mirkarimi and Rec & Park's General Manager, Yomi Agunbiade, preside over the opening of the Panhandle Toilets along with enthused supporters from the Children's Playground in May. The toilets will be open most days from dawn to dusk.

### WITH CALA CLOSED, HAIA AND OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT PLANS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD-SERV- ING GROCERY, HOUSING AND PARKING...



Stanyan & Haight, Photograph by Steve Taber

### WHILE A FAMILIAR FEW MOUNT MIND-BOGGLING OPPOSITION...

#### Bizarre Reaction to Prospect of Whole Foods on Haight

Nothing irks Calvin Welch as much as John Brennan. Welch is the city's "affordable housing" factotum and self-designated overseer of Haight Ashbury land use. Brennan is the owner of the northeast corner of Stanyan and Haight who wants to bring a Whole Foods into the space that has been vacated by Cala Foods.

At a community meeting [in April], Welch railed against the project while at the same time making its case. Go figure. It is clearly a dream scenario: Shabby supermarket replaced by well run organic food market, with housing above and parking below. What's not to like?

Besides putting [housing] on one of the most drug-ridden corners in the neighborhood and getting rid of an ugly, "suburban model" parking lot (locus of many police calls), it

*Continued page 8, 2nd column*

# AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING ON HAIGHT STREET SLATED TO OPEN JUNE 2007



Photograph by Cheryl Brodie

Citizens Housing Corporation (CHC), a San Francisco based non-profit affordable housing developer, is converting the church at 1250 Haight Street into 40 units of affordable, independent living apartments for seniors. The exterior of the church, built in 1915 in the Romanesque Revival style, will be preserved while four stories of studio and one-bedroom apartments will be constructed within the building shell. Individual apartments will include full kitchens and private baths. Among the common space amenities will be several lounge areas, a library, a laundry facility and a comfortable community space on the first floor. Construction, which began in December 2005, is scheduled to be completed in March of 2007, with full occupancy expected in June 2007.

Courtesy Citizens Housing Corporation

## SF officials fear shortage of housing for seniors

*'Demand far outstrips supply' as numbers [of seniors] grow*

James Buckley, president of Citizens Housing Corp, which is building the project, said seniors will pay 30 percent of their incomes up to \$40,000 a year. Jewish Family and Children Services will provide limited services.

Like much senior housing the project has minimal parking - four spaces - since it is well served by Muni. Chappell (SF Planning and Urban Research Association -SPUR) said that is why it makes sense to keep seniors in cities, where public transportation and easy access to grocery stores, doctors and community activities makes life easier.

"The worst thing in the world is to be trapped without transportation," he said.

*Last year, about 1600 people competed for 36 units at the Crocker Amazon Senior Apartments.*

Excerpted from the Chronicle, December 19, 2005  
Emily Fancher, Staff Writer

"You can only perceive  
real beauty  
in a person  
as they get  
Older."



Anouk Aimee  
French Film Actress, b. 1932

## IS SAN FRANCISCO PREPARED FOR AN AGING POPULATION?

"The nature of society is shifting," said Anabel Pelham, Ph.D and professor of geriatric care management at SF State. There are 74 million baby boomers (nationwide) who aren't having babies either and they are going to be living alone." "Baby Boomers" are those born between 1946 - 1964.

According to the Dept. Public Health, 14% of San Franciscans are currently 65 or older and the number of residents over age 60 will increase by 43% between now and 2020.

The fastest growing segment of the U.S. population is older than 85, and statistics show the number of elders living alone in San Francisco is at an all time high. The findings represent a sociological shift and are even more astounding considering the group of people older than 65 will soon be the largest group of their kind in human history.

## PARK STATION HOSTED A NEIGHBORHOOD BBQ TO CELEBRATE PARK STATION OFFICERS WHO HAVE SERVED 20 YEARS OR MORE ON MAY 25TH

HAIA recognized the Park Police with a framed certificate that read: "For enhancing community relationships, building rapport and mutual trust; for securing the safety of our streets, homes & businesses; for risking your personal safety in the pursuit of criminal elements; for sacrificing time with your own families to attend our neighborhood meetings; for long and distinguished service to our neighborhood - we thank you."



Photograph by Steve Brodie

Captain Ehrlich center with HAIA's recognition, officers with 20 years service and more received Certificates of Honor from Supervisor Mirkarimi and the Board of Supervisors

Captain John Ehrlich left for a vacation with his family mid-June, to be followed with attendance at FBI school. He will be away until mid-September. In his absence, senior Lt. Tim Foley is acting Captain. It is unknown if Capt. Ehrlich will return to Park Station.



Summertime is usually a season of the year that most young adults and teens anticipate with pleasure. In San Francisco this is often not the case as youth look forward to idle months. One of the things that could make summertime more productive, as well as safer, is a summer job for a young adult.

The summer of 2006 will be the second year of a joint partnership between the City of San Francisco and United Way to create summer employment opportunities for young adults. The program is called JOBS FOR YOUTH.

There seems to be a lack of connection between many San Francisco teens and the rest of the city. I believe this is one of the city's most significant social problems. In the Haight and Western Addition we see the effects of idle teens firsthand. As

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## OPINION



we all know, there is no “quick fix” to the problem of panhandling & loitering in the Haight or youth-shooting-youth in the Western Addition. We as a city will bear the effects of this lack of connectivity as more of our teens enter adulthood. However, we do live in a small city compared to cities such as Los Angeles and New York. I believe that our problems are more solvable merely by the sheer fact that our population numbers are not nearly as overwhelming as bigger cities.

JOBS FOR YOUTH (JFY) is designed as an umbrella to seek and secure positions for young adults. One of the groups which JFY has partnered with is the Larkin Street Youth Services. As most of us know, a component of Larkin Street’s mission is to work with young adults on the streets of the Haight. Currently JFY does not have a job-training partner in the Western Addition but I hope to help start a job training program in the near future with the leadership of the African American Arts and Cultural Complex.

The intent of the JFY program, and one of the main reasons why I have chosen to be a part of it, is to build a program which can be long-term. There have been other similar city-sponsored programs but the small and dedicated staff of JOBS FOR YOUTH has been able to build a strong foundation which will allow for sustained viability.

I believe that both the big and small business community must play a stronger role in addressing issues that we can affect. A summer job and the lessons which come with it will create a lasting impression and can make an enduring difference in a young person’s life.

I ask that you strongly consider either hiring a “job-ready” young adult from the JOBS FOR YOUTH program, if in fact you are an employer, OR, in the more likely case that you are NOT an employer, you may influence a neighborhood business how important it is to participate in youth-hiring programs.

As we see dwindling numbers in city schools and an increasing difficulty for families to stay in San Francisco, we need to emphasize the reasons why it is great to raise kids in the city. I think the biggest reason is that this is THE CITY, not the suburbs. As a city we offer such a mosaic of possibilities. There should easily be so many more opportunities for summer jobs for young adults in our city.

*Michael O’Connor, HAIA Member At Large*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** [www.jobsforyouth.net](http://www.jobsforyouth.net) OR  
Call (415) 861-JOBS

Jobs for Youth  
United Way of the Bay Area  
221 Main Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105



Photograph by Cheryl Brodie

Michael O’Connor, VP, Small Business Commission makes closing comments at Small Business Week Kick-off at SF City Hall; Jordanna Thigpen, President Small Business Commission

*My impression of the Alford Lake Task Force meetings and my thoughts (and the thoughts of many of my neighbors) concerning the concept of additional services such as showers and laundry for the homeless in the Haight.*

I live across the street from a homeless shelter and a soup kitchen and have spent the last eleven years, in cooperation with my neighbors, trying to work with those organizations to mitigate some of the problems that, unfortunately, have continued to prevail. Because of my close proximity to social services that seem to have neither the ability nor the will to resolve problems that affect their neighbors, I am sensitive to the fact that representatives from the Haight Ashbury Youth Outreach Team (HAYOT) and Coalition on Homelessness (COH) seem more than willing to continue to impact our neighborhood, with no interest in taking any responsibility for the problems such organizations engender for others.

The corner of Haight and Cole has been problematic for more years than I can remember and HAYOT has consistently been indifferent to the needs of the neighborhood for every single one of those years. COH also seems unwilling to even consider the needs of those who might be impacted by their clients, placing ideological framework before the lives of those their ideologies impact - residents and homeless.

Because people in this neighborhood have had ensuing problems that we have had to live with year after year from arrogant and poorly run social services, everyone that I spoke with regarding the concept of adding showers and laundry facilities, was emphatic in not wanting one more social service to further degrade our neighborhood.

My suggestion is to research where showers in the city are already located. If a short van ride was necessary in order to take a shower, it may provide an opportunity to relate to those in the social service industry for an uninterrupted period of time. This interaction could help break the cycle of relating primarily to other homeless individuals and would encourage them to avail themselves of other services that could help turn their lives around.

Sincerely,  
Marianne Hesse

**HAIA Note:** Showers are available at McMillan/CATS @ 39 Fell Street x Market & Polk 8-9:30am; 11am-3pm; 4pm-7am

**HAIA** has proposed a roundtable that includes service providers, community members and District 5’s Supervisor to discuss the issue of service providers as neighbors. Recent complaints have included age-related harassment and sexual harassment. The roundtable will ideally facilitate communication and address strategies & expectations to address the community’s concerns.



## ON THE SAFE SIDE 6

Every neighborhood in San Francisco has experienced some type of crime like burglary, robbery, violence and auto break-ins. Most people respond to crime by locking their doors, staying home, and becoming isolated. Is this the way you want to live? The best approach to developing safe neighborhoods is through the efforts of community involvement.

San Francisco SAFE can help you to organize a safer neighborhood through the implementation of a customized Neighborhood Watch program. SAFE's Neighborhood Watch program is a partnership between united neighbors, the San Francisco Police Department and other private and public agencies working together to problem-solve identified public safety issues. SAFE provides consultation to help you and your neighbors through the organizing process, delivers crime prevention education and resources, and facilitates the development of neighborhood communication. SAFE can also help your block be better prepared for natural and man-made emergencies and disasters by planning and training provided by experts from the office of Emergency Services and NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams).

If you and your neighbors want to be better informed, involved, and active, contact HAIA at 415-221-5567 or SAFE at 415.553.1984 or email [info@sfsafe.org](mailto:info@sfsafe.org).

San Francisco SAFE, Inc. (Safety Awareness For Everyone) is a non-profit organization that works in cooperation with the San Francisco Police Department. Visit SAFE's website at [www.sfsafe.org](http://www.sfsafe.org).

*Submitted by Pam Matsuda, Program Director*

NOTE: Neighbors North of the Panhandle will be organizing a Neighborhood Watch to address a spate of Crime in the Hayes Street area. Please email us at [haia\\_sf@yahoo.com](mailto:haia_sf@yahoo.com) if you are interested in being involved.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO? GET INVOLVED WITH THE WEST OF DIVISADERO PLANNING COMMITTEE!

You are invited to get involved in your community and work to increase neighborhood emergency preparation awareness and participation. SF5Together, in conjunction with the San Francisco Office of Emergency Services, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and Supervisor Mirkarimi's office formed the SF D5 West of Divisadero Emergency Planning Committee to address community concerns regarding disaster preparedness.

The goal is to create a community-based plan that will make the most of neighborhood resources in the event of an emergency. All residents who live West of Divisadero in District 5, including the Inner Sunset, UCSF, Cole Valley, Buena Vista, Upper Haight, North of Panhandle, USF, and Divisadero Corridor, are encouraged to participate.

This is an excellent chance for community members to take a lead in a critical neighborhood activity. You will have input in the emergency planning process and work with other community members, as well as city government and local institutions. You

*Continued next column*

You will also get to know your neighbors better. Rise to the challenge and become a leader in your community.

**About the SF District 5 West of Divisadero Emergency Planning Committee:** The purpose of the committee is to promote disaster awareness and to increase coordination among vital community resources in order to help mitigate the outcome of disasters. The neighborhood emergency plan will recommend steps to help local entities fill any gaps that may occur between government response and local needs during the first 72 hours or more following a major disaster event.

Experience has shown that after a major disaster in San Francisco, police, fire, rescue and other emergency response and support services will experience a tremendous demand on service, and may not be able to respond to all emergencies. Moreover, vital needs such as water, food, and shelter may be impaired. The committee encourages local residents visit the emergency preparation site [www.72hours.org](http://www.72hours.org) and become actively involved in NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team), a resource provided by the San Francisco Fire Department.

A prepared community will be better equipped to stabilize and recover following a disaster. To this end, community residents, groups, and institutions are strongly encouraged to become involved to help organize neighbor by neighbor, block by block.

*For more information, please contact West of Divisadero Emergency Planning Committee volunteer coordinators John D'Avolio, [johnd@triggerfish.org](mailto:johnd@triggerfish.org), 415.517.5377 or Alec Tune, [alec.tune@gmail.com](mailto:alec.tune@gmail.com).*

### HAIA'S PRESIDENT AND RESIDENT CHAIR AWARDED AT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL ORDERS



Photograph by Steve Brodie

Regina Dick-Endrizzi (Legislative Aide to Supervisor Mirkarimi), Daniel Homsey ( Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services), Richard Shadoian (HAIA Resident Chair), District 5 Supervisor Mirkarimi, Cheryl Brodie (HAIA President)

The Certificate of Honor reads, "In grateful recognition of your foresight and dedication in initiating the creation of the *Neighbors as First Responders* program to build community-based disaster response plans tailored to individuals so that neighborhoods can be self-sufficient in disasters, which is especially poignant today, the 100th anniversary of the Great Earthquake of 1906. The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco extends its highest commendation." Signed Ross Mirkarimi and all 10 district supervisors on April 18, 2006.

**Helpful Hint for your Disaster Plan!**  
Post-disaster change your voice mail to state you are safe and where you may be found. The message will reassure friends & relatives...and potentially assist you to reunite with loved ones.

# HAIA'S BOARD MEMBERS

ELECTED JANUARY 2006 FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

**President: Cheryl Brodie**

Resident since 1984; 2004 President of SF5Together; Legislative Aide to Supervisor Mirkarimi 2005

**Merchant Chair: David Miller**

Owner, Brainsdrops on Hayes Street and Haight Street; Board Member of the Castro Street Fair; 15 yr Resident

**Resident Chair: Richard Shadoian**

Resident since 1986; Past Elections Commissioner; President SF5Together;

**Secretary: Deborah Hall**

Resident since 1977; Previous member of HAIA; Served on the board of various non-profit organizations

**Treasurer: Andy Esposto**

Assistant Manager, Wells Fargo Bank on Haight Street

**Member At Large: Sharon McAllister**

Resident since 1975; Teacher with SFUSD - 36 years

**Member At Large: Bruce Samson**

Owner of Kids Only on Haight Street; Resident since 1972

**Member At Large: Susan Strolis**

Resident since 1985; RAD Member; Long-term employee of a local small business

**Member At Large: Michael O'Connor**

Co-owner of The Independent on Divisadero; Vice President of the Small Business Commission

**HAIA IS A MEMBER OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS:**

**SF5Together** - A District 5 coalition of resident and merchant associations (meets monthly on the first Wednesday at Northern Police Station on Turk and Fillmore)

**CSFN** - Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

**District Council of Merchants** - A citywide coalition of merchant associations

**PARTNERSHIP!**

**COLE HARDWARE IS GIVING**

Haight Ashbury Improvement Association

10% OF YOUR PURCHASES!



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 at Pennsylvania at 29th St. near Market on Russian Hill  
 415/753-2653 415/647-0700 415/777-4460 415/674-8012

HAIA is a member of Cole Hardware's Community Partnership program. Cole Hardware gives us 10% of purchases made by you, every day of the year! Earn money for HAIA while shopping for your hardware needs at any Cole Hardware location. The more you spend, the more they donate to us! **Ask the cashier to post your purchase to Haight Ashbury Improvement Association (HAIA)** It's that simple!

**HAIA MEMBERS SPEAK OUT...**

**68% of Members Responded; 4% Abstained**

**Should biohazard sharps containers be located in the toilet stalls of the park restrooms?**

48% YES  
 14% NO  
 2% Undecided

**Should biohazard sharps depositories be located, freestanding, in the park?**

24% YES  
 38% NO  
 2% Undecided



**APRIL'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**TOPIC: PEOPLE ON THE STREETS OF THE HAIGHT: CONCERNS AND SOLUTIONS**



Photograph by Susan Strolis

**Guests:** Ross Mirkarimi (District 5 Supervisor), Daniel Homsey (Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services MONS), Captain Ehrlich (Park Police Station), Nick Hancock (Project Homeless Connect), and Brian Bringardner (Assistant D.A.)

**Alvord Lake Task Force** – Capt. Ehrlich gave an overview of crime in the neighborhood. Staffing at Park Station has increased in the last few months. Police are making an effort to reduce crime, including drug dealing and to keep alcohol use West of the tunnel, where city ordinance allows it. He proposed that those who commit quality of life infractions be given community service rather than waived fines. This proposal was well received by members in attendance. (See HAIA Resolution on Page 2)

**Drug Offenses** - Brian Bringardner talked about Drug Court. Selling drugs is considered a felony and drug sellers rarely get diverted sentences, except for a few young, first offenders. Drug Court is for drug users not sellers. If participants follow through with the program, their offenses are removed from the record.

**Community Court** – there was some discussion about how to make more use of this in our neighborhood, reducing the workload on our court system and getting community residents involved.

**Project Homeless Connect** – Nick Hancock talked about how this program helps connect people to social services. While it has primarily served the Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods, the last event included the Haight Ashbury. A few dozen people were shuttled in vans from Golden Gate Park to Bill Graham Auditorium.

**District 5 Supervisor Mirkarimi** - Sup. Mirkarimi said that as the number of homeless are decreasing downtown, they are moving westward into the city's neighborhoods. In the Upper Haight, he acknowledged that they are becoming more abusive. "I do not like the increasing incivility [of the street people] in the Upper Haight," he said. He urged the police to increase foot patrols in the area.

**MONS, Daniel Homsey** - said It's great to see HAIA come back to life with such vigor and passion. The Haight is one of the most amazing neighborhoods in the city - it's beauty right now is only eclipsed by the challenges that face it. There are viable organic solutions out there that we can collaborate around and implement. It is only through an ongoing dialogue and engagement that we will secure genuine results for everyone.

*Deborah Hall, HAIA Secretary*



## HELPFUL CONTACTS

(pick up the phone and...**CALL!**)

Blocked Driveway or Sidewalk 553-1200  
 Disturbance 553-0123  
 (Police Dispatch - Park Station)  
 Graffiti (or abandoned furniture, trash cans, pot-  
 holes, etc) 28-CLEAN or 282-5326  
 Health Department (including mosquito  
 concerns) 255-3610  
 Streetlight Repair 554-0730

Haight Ashbury Improvement Association boundaries fall within two Supervisorial Districts:

### District 5 Supervisor

Ross Mirkarimi 554-7630  
Email: ross.mirkarimi@sfgov.org

### District 8 Supervisor

Bevan Duffy 554-6968  
Email: bevan.duffy@sfgov.org

### Mayor Gavin Newsom

554-6141  
City Hall, Rm 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
SF CA 94102

**Social Service Hotline!** SF callers who dial **211** will automatically be routed to assistance finding everything from a homeless shelter to job training. The service is operated by the United Way of the Bay Area.

# HAIA

HAIGHT ASHBURY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 170098  
SF CA 94117



### July 19th Meeting

**Proposed  
Development of a  
Neighborhood-serving  
Grocery, Housing  
and Parking at  
Haight & Stanyan**

*(see article on Pg. 3)*

**6:30pm at the  
Community Room  
of the Park Branch  
Library at  
1822 Page Street**

fulfills every requirement of political correctness: organic food, well-paid workers, cars out of view with an increase of needed housing stock by 57 units. And yet, Welch spent 40 minutes relentlessly charting the 30 year history of zoning laws that govern Haight Street which, in 1987, was designated a Neighborhood Commercial District. Among other things, this "special use" moniker mandates that a building should have a neighborhood-serving business on its ground floor, residential housing above and not impede the district's "transit preferential" streets, which both Haight and Stanyan are. The more Welch spoke, with his God-given silver-tongue and encyclopedic recall of rules and regs, the more it seemed clear that this project was ideal for the site.

During the question period, the only negatives that anyone could come up with were that the underground parking garage would contain 54 more parking spaces than those on the present lot, presumably slowing the flow of traffic on Stanyan as residents entered and exited.

Herein lies the mystery: why would Welch go to such extremes to intimidate this builder? Undoubtedly there is a rivalry born of past conflicts, and yet this would seem to be the one time that Welch could relent, so obviously positive is the proposed plan.

*Karen Crommie, Cole Valley Improvement Association  
CVIA June Newsletter - Reprinted with Permission*

**WHAT CAN YOU DO? ATTEND HAIA'S GENERAL MEETING ON JULY 19TH** (see Calendar on front page); **EMAIL DISTRICT 5'S SUPERVISOR, ROSS MIRKARIMI, AT** [Ross.Mirkarimi@sfgov.org](mailto:Ross.Mirkarimi@sfgov.org) and please cc [haia\\_sf@yahoo.com](mailto:haia_sf@yahoo.com)  
**TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS...WIDESPREAD GRASSROOTS SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT...**