



Newsletter, July 2022



limbo of intent while I opened e-mail alerts, attended meetings, & lost the prioritization battle.

I am so thankful for our CNIA board, as they try to keep me focused and remind me to ‘Keep It Simple’. So now, I’m hoping to present a very simple outline of higher priority information. You will learn of our current team activities during our **quarterly CNIA community meeting on Saturday, July 16 at 11a**. The ZOOM link will be sent this week, along with presenter information.

You can also visit our webpage for updates on our activities, including the minutes of board meetings, which include our team reports:

<https://cayugaimprovementassociation.org/>

Great thanks to our cyber guru, **Renee Anderson**, for updating this site!

1). A fun item: The “All San Francisco Symphony Concert” has returned!!! This annual event has been a favorite of the CNIA and the Cayuga Community Connectors for many, many years. Mark your calendar: Thursday, Sept. 22 @ 7p. Watch your mailbox: I’ll be sending the announcement, with sign up form, this week. Tickets are only \$12. Esa-Pekka Salonen will be conducting Mendelssohn’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”.

2). A pivotal CNIA value: “Find someone doing something right, recognize, and reward it!”

Great news: the CNIA ‘Resilient Cayuga Team’ has been awarded a NeighborFest block grant for the 200 block of Niagara.

In this time of significant sociological change and challenges, each community must assume responsibility for the initial phases of post emergency/disaster preparedness. Doing so is the mission of the Resilient Cayuga Team.

Board member **Erica Schultz** has volunteered to serve as the Niagara block champion. Thank you, Erica! Erica assumed responsibility for completing the grant application. She will be coordinating this event with the aid of the CNIA board & the Resilient Greater Excelsior Area team.

Resilient San Francisco is a vital program, which the CNIA has participated in since 2015.

The Cayuga Neighborhood Improvement Association October Community Meeting will be held this Saturday, July 16, at 11 am via Zoom.

Watch your inbox for the email link Speakers:

Supervisor Safai

Ingleside SFPD Capt. Lew

Clinic by the Bay – Sarah Gordan, Executive Director

Notes from President Chris



Sometimes, a column is most efficient when presented in simple bullet points. As I ponder the explosive array of activities, actions, news items, et al cascading forth as ‘society re-opens’, my brain stutters. This column has lingered too long in the

I encourage you to learn more by following the links below:

<https://www.empowersf.org/resilientcayuga/>

<https://www.empowersf.org/the-strong-block-program/>

<https://www.empowersf.org/neighborfest/>

Thank you to **Barbara Fugate** for serving as newsletter editor. I find writing a column daunting. Can you imagine how much work creating a newsletter is?

Thank you to **Steve Indig** for suggesting we switch our newsletter delivery system to MailChimp. Steve presented an enlightening and accessible inservice on this system. Those involved in newsletter production have decided to move forward. The project will be completed in time for our next edition.

I also wish to recognize member **James Alexander** for performing our annual financial audit! He has provided the CNIA with a comprehensive report, accompanied by a professional spreadsheet. Thank you so very much, James!

I hope to see you all at this month's community meeting!

Neighborhood Cleanup

Immediately following the General Meeting from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., please join us at Alemany and Ottawa for our monthly neighborhood cleanup. Everyone appreciates trash free clean sidewalks and this is one of the ways it happens. Cleaning supplies and protective gear are provided. For further information contact Steve Indig at 415-577-3656 or via email at steveindig1@gmail.com

**Cayuga Neighborhood Improvement Association
Board June Meeting Minutes
By Mary Gayle Thomas**

SF Water, Power, Sewer (SFPUC.org)

Kelley Omran discussed planned infrastructure improvements to address storm flooding in the

Lower Alemany area. They solicited information from residents and businesses in the area via a community survey. Key priorities were flooding, air quality, pedestrian safety, noise, and street cleanliness and maintenance. Some plans include floodproofing, identifying sites to create berms or levees, create floodable spaces, tree well storage, a detention basin. Street redesign will keep flow away from properties and sidewalks; will also address community traffic speed and safety concerns. There are also plans to retrofit 14 schools and 9 parks. Concluded with a request for our concerns and our continued input.

Marius Lucas, A Living Library

Marius discussed Bonnie Ora Sherk's legacy 'A Living Library' with a focus on the Seneca Street installation. Currently, there are gardens in several schools, but they all need volunteers for maintenance. Marius is a one-man team at this point. He would appreciate any outreach to local gardeners who could help.

Minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2022 board meeting as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Renee Anderson reported that we have two new members and one renewal. Thirty dollars came in; no money was paid out. Our bank balance is \$3424.32.

President's Report:

Chris Dillon is continuing, in the absence of a Resilient Cayuga Team Leader, to work on Resilient Cayuga activities.

Erica Shultz completed the pre-application for a Livable City funded NeighborFest Block Party on Niagara between Delano and Cayuga. She will serve as the "block champion". Chris attended an RGEA (Resilient Greater Excelsior Area) meeting last Friday morning and will continue to attend the Thursday evening HUB meetings.

Barbara Fugate and Chris will 'host' an informal block party on the 300 block of Foote this Saturday, beginning at 11A. Board members are invited to attend.

2). A Living Library will provide an article for our July newsletter.

3). It is time for us to consider officer elections.

TEAM REPORTS

Audit: Renee and James Alexander: audit is underway **Pit Stop:** No updates.

Community Outreach: Erica is the team leader, but she is on vacation now. Barbara Fugate attended the recent team meeting. A welcome package for new members is being worked on. We need to write an "introduction to the CNIA" letter for the welcome package.

Newsletter: Barbara requested articles be given to her before July 6.

Cayuga Clean: Steve Indig reported that the last clean-up resulted in 12 bags of garbage being collected. The next one will be Saturday, 10 am - noon; starting point at the church, Alemany @ Ottawa.

Friends of Cayuga Park:

Chris hopes to schedule a volunteer day at the park soon. Several members expressed interest at this time. Renee will draft a letter to Rec & Parks to complain about the current conditions at the park. The board will then review and send it on. (update: with the arrival of a new supervisor and gardener the letter is on hold and not to be sent at this time)

Cayuga Community Connectors: Colleen and Glenda reported that our current contract (which expires end of June) has been extended through December 2022. We are currently holding senior exercise classes on Monday and Wednesday. Marina Lazzarra recently gave a presentation on medicinal herbs. Colleen suggested that we can start holding bi-monthly potluck/birthday parties again.

Old Business:

Strategic Planning

Renee will lead us in "strategic planning round 2":

- a. First, we need to refer to the original planning meeting, where we generated some fundamental outcomes-based ideas
- b. Then we can vote on priorities
- c. Need to agree on a date and time (1.5-2 hours) for our next strategic planning meeting, which Renee will plan and lead.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Treasurer Renee Anderson

Membership update: Members continue to take advantage of the savings when paying 5 years membership dues in advance. Yearly dues remain at \$10 a year. If you wish to pay for 5 years the dues would be \$40. .

It is also very important that we get updated information on our members. **We promise you we will not share you information, your information will remain private and only the CNIA board will have access for CNIA business.**

Why does the Board believe it is important that we have your contact information? Because there are times when we would like to update members, especially when we are made aware of safety concerns for our neighborhood.

Dues can be paid via PayPal or by check made payable to the CNIA and mailed or delivered to 322 Rome St.

News you can Use-

Did you know:

Did you know you can get a parking ticket in your own driveway? If your driveway is not original to the building of the house, the Planning Dept considers these driveways illegal and has starting citing owners.

As reported on a local TV channel one couple was stunned to receive a ticket for parking in a spot they have used for 36 years. The \$1,340 ticket came with a warning that they could be fined \$250 per day if they continue to park in the spot. For more on this story go to:

<https://www.nbc15.com/2022/07/06/couple-fined-1500-parking-their-own-driveway/>

Scam Alert:

Utility Scam: The Scammers are at it again. If you receive an email or a phone call from someone impersonating a utility provider expect them to claim your account is past due and you must pay immediately or your power will be shut off. If you get a call like this immediately hang up. You can call your utility provider using the phone number on your billing statement.

Car Rental Scam: They say if it sounds too good to be true Since many rental care companies sold off much of their inventory due to Covid car rental prices have gone up dramatically. Scammers are spoofing well known rental car websites and advertising fake customer service numbers. They will try to talk you into one of their “great” deals and they want you to obtain a gift card to pay for it. No legitimate rental agency will ask for payment by gift card. And if you are dealing with a rental agency you have not done business with before, it is suggested you do a web search using that companies name and the word “scam in the search line.

Need a Covid Test?

Every Wednesday until August 3rd, the clubhouse of Boys and Girls Club, 163 London St, will be offering free walk up Covid test. That’s correct, no insurance is required.

Cayuga Park Volunteers

The full SF RPD team is returning from their Covid mandated support role with Dep’t of Emergency Management. We look forward to collaborating with this RPD team! Our new gardener’s name is Maurice. Daniel Choi and Laura Giacchetti are our park supervisors. See the article which follows to learn more. Please extend a warm welcome to them! The malfunctioning irrigation system is in the process of being repaired.

Mission Inn – the Mission Inn project is a go. In May, the last Mission Inn public meeting was well attended with 70+ folks at the Zoom meeting. Since that time current occupants have moved to another location and the conversion has begun at the site. For those not familiar with the project the Mission Inn will be converted to housing for emancipated foster youth in San Francisco. ‘Emancipated youth’ refers to the fact that 18 years of age is when youth are no longer eligible for foster care services. There will be 24/7 on site staff, including a security team.

Welcome Maurice, our new Cayuga Park gardener!



Cayuga Park has a new gardener! Thanks to CNIA Treasurer and enthusiastic Cayuga Park volunteer, Renee Anderson, I was introduced to Maurice soon after his arrival.

Maurice began his gardening career with SF RPD 6 years ago. He arrived in our community in June. Recently, I stopped by to visit with him for ‘a few minutes’ and was stunned to realize that time had flown by as our conversation covered myriad aspects of Cayuga Park, including past history and climate change adaptive future landscaping visions.

When I asked him about his passions, he immediately stated “horticulture”! Maurice found the perfect match for his life’s mission when he was accepted into our SF Park and Recreation Apprentice program. His immediate past assignment was Harding Park, our municipal golf course at Lake Merced. That precisely manicured environment is a very different experience to nurturing the encyclopedic array of plants nestled in the imaginative terrain of our community gem! He’s learning about our magical park, and our community, by visiting with park stakeholders whenever possible. He is also responsible for Alice Chalmers and Sears Park.

Maurice is a native San Franciscan, raised in the Sunset. He attended Lincoln High and completed his Horticulture A.A. at City College. He now lives in Fremont, where he tends his own garden. He loves to play golf and to travel, with a trip to Ireland and Scotland scheduled for later this summer. In Ireland,

he'll golf and visit pubs and gardens. His quest in Scotland is focused on finding the perfect fish and chips site(s). If you've visited Scotland and have suggestions on this topic, be sure to stop by Cayuga Park and share your favorite sites with Maurice!

Before wandering home, I asked Maurice what was one dream he hoped to accomplish. His reply is truly unique and so perfect for a horticulturist: he hopes to nurture a tree, starting with planting the seed, and ending up with gathering seeds from that first tree to plant more. His vision is to literally grow a 'family tree' which will prosper into an earth replenishing grove!

If you are an enthusiastic gardener who wishes to transform your passion into a career, please visit with Maurice &/or follow the link below to the SF Recreation and Parks apprentice gardener program web page:

<https://sfrecpark.org/1202/Gardener-Apprentice-Program>

Useful Phone Numbers

911 – All Emergencies – police/fire/medical

415-553-0123 – All non-emergency police calls

Supervisor Safai's Office – 415-554-6975

415-554-1200 – Parking complaints, blocked sidewalks, blocked driveways, illegal parking, etc.

311 – (phone app SF311) use to report graffiti, trash, dumping furniture or large items, abandoned vehicles etc. 311 is a good place to start, they can take a report or refer you to the correct City department for just about any problem.

Animal Care and Control – injured animals emergency situation for animals **415 554-6364**

Recology – garbage problems, free pickups
415-875-1300

BART 510-464-6000

PGE – 1-800-743-5000

Department of Elections- 1-415-554-4375

Disaster Preparedness info In the event of a city wide emergency such as the earthquake we all expect to happen, you can listen to current news on the radio. Stations **88.5 FM and 15.30 AM**

The Cayuga Neighborhood Improvement Board

President: Chris Dillon 415-722-4887

cayugaimprovement@gmail.com

Vice President –position open

Secretary: MG Thomas - sanfransec@gmail.com

Treasurer: R Anderson reneesf2020@gmail.com

Technology Chair: Renee Anderson

Pit Stop Project: Glenda Hope / R Anderson

Sunshine Committee: open

Cayuga Community Connectors: Colleen Pionteck

Member at Large: open

Cayuga Clean Steve Indig 415-577-3656

steveindig1@gmail.com

Redistricting – Barbara Fugate 415-585-7021

Resilient Cayuga – open position

NERT Liaison- J. Merschen,

nanieadult@comcast.net

Cayuga Park Volunteers – Chris Dillon

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It is the policy of this neighborhood association that your silence on an issue will be considered consent.

