

NORTH PANHANDLE NEWS



North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

www.nopna.org

Nov/Dec 2015

New Lights Installed in Panhandle Park

By Dera-Jill Pozner



*The new lights were quick to install and should last 20 years.
Photo: Dera-Jill Pozner*

Panhandle Park is a safer, brighter, more energy-efficient place, thanks to the September installation of upgraded LED lighting in all existing lamp posts. The new lights also mark the completion of Phase 1 of the neighborhood-initiated Panhandle Park Improvements project.

Members of the North of the Panhandle Neighborhood Association (NOPNA), Panhandle Residents Organization Stanyan-Fulton (PROSF) and Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC) have been working since January 2014 to champion park improvements. Many neighbors have shared input on much-needed safety improvements at more than a dozen community meetings. Most of the planned improvements are funded by \$500,000 from District Supervisor London Breed's 2014-16 budget add-backs.

Although the old lights were in good condition, neighbors determined they were too dim and burnt out too frequently. The resulting dark zones posed a safety threat.

(Continued on page 3)

Calendar of Events

Divisadero Farmers Market
Sundays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Grove Street between Divisadero and Broderick

SFPD Park Station Community Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6 p.m.
Park Station, 1899 Waller St.

SFPD Northern Station Community Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m.
Northern Station, 1125 Fillmore St.

Panhandle Park Community Work Day
Saturday, Jan. 9, 9–11 a.m.
Meet at the bulletin board in Panhandle Park, near playground

NOPNA MEETING

Thursday, Jan. 21

7 p.m.: Informal get-together
7:30 p.m.: General Meeting

OASIS CAFE
901 Divisadero St. @ McAllister

From the Board

By Charles DuPigny



As we approach the end of the year, there are many wonderful things we can all be thankful for. At the beginning of the year, I expressed the importance of community involvement and shared how the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association's past accomplishments had enticed my own involvement.


This year NOPNA continued its record of achievement. In 2015, we recruited more volunteers from the neighborhood, and they contributed countless hours to this newsletter, the neighborhood sidewalk sale, summer block party, Halloween and holiday festivities and other endeavors.

We also reached a milestone in the Panhandle Park Improvement project when new energy efficient lights were installed in the park. NOPNA believes these will light the way to a safer, more beautiful park for our community.

Also in 2015, our neighborhood saw changes and proposed developments that will make an impact along Divisadero and in NoPa as a whole. NOPNA brought together advocates, elected officials, and residents to highlight legislation and propose ways we can shape a better neighborhood.


We know our work is not yet done, but for now, on the behalf of NOPNA's all-volunteer board, we thank you. We acknowledge you, our volunteers, officials, advocates, neighbors and those who might feel their efforts go unnoticed in the community. As we head into a new year, NOPNA believes with continued joint effort, NoPa will continue to shine.

Charles DuPigny is vice president of the NOPNA board.



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North Panhandle News is published for the residents, businesses, and friends of our neighborhood, which is bounded by Masonic Avenue and Turk, Divisadero and Fell Streets.

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NOPNA's mission: The purpose of this association shall be to establish neighborhood unity, maintain multi-ethnic and multi-cultural diversity, foster a sense of neighborhood pride, promote a safe and clean community, and improve the quality of life for all residents of the neighborhood.

**CONTACT NOPNA by email: board@nopna.org
www.nopna.org**

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New Lights *(from page 1)*

In search of a solution, neighbors reached out to Holophane, which manufactured the original fixtures about 20 years ago. The company did not have an LED retrofit compatible with the existing cement poles. The lamp posts are common to many San Francisco parks, so Holophane designed and manufactured a new product.

Panhandle Park is the showcase project for this new and economical LED retrofit light. Only the internal transformer and lamp need to be changed, while reusing all of the remaining fixture parts. The new lights take only about 20 minutes each to install.

In addition to the improved visibility they provide, the LED and

photocell have a 100,000-hour rating and should last 20 years with little to no required maintenance. What's more, energy usage has been cut by 60 percent.

So what's next for the Panhandle Park Improvements project? Phase 2 will include signage with rules and wayfinding, new benches, new waste bins, bike racks and water filling stations. Work is expected to begin this summer.

Phase 3 includes the repaving of the entire pedestrian path along Oak St and all cross paths, which neighbors identified as their highest priority during community outreach. The Recreation & Parks Department is designing irrigation upgrades for

the park, which will be coordinated with Phase 3. Although Phase 3 has been conceptually approved by the parks commission, it is not yet funded. NOPNA, PRO SF, and HANC continue to request funding support from the commission and Supervisor Breed.

There are also plans for a complete overhaul of the playground. The project is funded and awaiting the assignment of an RPD project manager to kick it off.

Visit panhandleparkimprovements.com for more information.

Dera-Jill Pozner is a NOPNA board member and architect who practices in NoPa.

You Can Prevent Textiles From Entering Landfills

By Brandon Northart

Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin has teamed up with the San Francisco Department of the Environment and the Youth Leadership Institute to eliminate textiles from landfills. While textiles are generally seen as woven materials like clothing and linens, they also include items such as shoes, purses, backpacks, jewelry and other accessories. Americans are buying more textiles than ever. What happens when you don't want those old jeans anymore?

Since textiles are not suitable for recycle and compost bins, they often end up in the landfill. A lot of attention has been brought to recycling plastics, glass and paper, but did you know the greenhouse gas savings from textile recycling is greater than all three of those materials combined?

Reducing textile waste plays a pivotal role in achieving our city's of zero waste by 2020. Despite diverting 80 percent of its overall waste, San Francisco sends 4,500 pounds of textiles to landfills every hour, enough to fill 1,500 Muni buses. Most of the 39 million pounds of textiles we send to the waste stream each year can be reused or recycled into insulation material, flooring, packaging, or cushioning in stuffed toys, insoles, and bags.

Here are some ways you can reduce textile waste:



Photo: Shutterstock

- Reduce new clothing purchases or buy used.
- Reuse your textiles as much as possible.
- Donate your used textiles to an organization that will reuse or recycle and provide benefits to local people.
- Demand extended producer responsibility and access to landfill alternatives.

Together we can tackle zero waste, one textile at a time. *Brandon Northart is the sustainability coordinator for Goodwill Industries of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin.*

Halloween Brings Costumes, Candy and Cannon Fire to Grove Street

By Mimi Sparrow

Grove Street residents pulled out all the stops to entertain revelers at the annual NOPNA Halloween party on Oct. 31. Families, residents and friends decked out in zany costumes of all persuasions strolled from house to house, enjoying spooky garages, graveyard gardens, and the Rusty Squid, a pirate ship complete with a cannon that shot candy from a second-story window. Neighbors greeted each other, enjoyed candy and treats, and admired each other's creative costumes and makeup. The costume contest was a popular draw, as always, with awards given out to many scarily-clad youngsters.

Deep thanks and appreciation go to everyone who helped make the party a success. The event's Premier Sponsor, Jennifer Rosdail of Paragon Real Estate Group, sponsored the costume contest and provided prizes for winners. Target stores donated \$50 worth of candy for trick-or-treaters, and the University of San Francisco

band provided the music. Many thanks also go to all of the resident-hosts of Grove Street; Sara Leeder, who created the flyers; NOPNA Board members and event volunteers; District Supervisor London Breed, who assisted with the costume contest; and Captain John Sanford and the SFPD for making sure all was safe during and after the party.





1. Scary cheerleaders were to die for. 2. District 5 Supervisor London Breed and legislative aide Vallie Brown caught up with NOPNA board member Leela Gill. 3. Grove Street residents gave out treats. 4. The Rusty Squid's cannon shot candy from a second-floor window. 5. Three sugar skull girls won their age group in the costume contest. 6. Ghosts played Scrabble. 7. Super Mario family costume. 8 and 9. Kids trick-or-treated along Grove Street. Photos: Mimi Sparrow and Lisa Eastlack

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 Jennifer Rosdail



Out and About

By Libby Estell

The changes just keep coming to the 30 square blocks we call home. It's a lot to keep track of, so we've outlined the latest openings, closings and other news here.

RETAIL



Panhandle Home, a shop specializing in pillows and chandeliers, opened Oct. 30 at the corner of Hayes and Broderick streets. It shares the space with home staging and interior design firm Arthur McLaughlin & Associates, which took over the former Osso & Co space just over a year ago.

Portland, Oregon-based leather goods maker **Tanner Goods** opened just before Thanksgiving in the former Cara Glass workshop at 651 Divisadero St.

RESTAURANTS



Vegetarian restaurant **Herbivore** closed its doors in October after 16 years on Divisadero. Its Mission and Berkeley locations remain open.

The owners of Namu Gaji in the Mission have filed an application for a beer and wine license at 553 Divisadero, the space occupied by **Jay's Cheesesteak** since 2001. The new restaurant is to be called **Namu Stonepot**, but there's no word on when the transition will occur.

DEVELOPMENT



Plans for renovation of the **Harding Theater** and the construction of a five-story condominium building have been released. They call for a bar/arcade called **Emporium** in the former theater, two retail storefronts on either side and seven residences around the corner at **1282 Hayes**.



An architect filed a preliminary planning assessment in October to demolish both **1735 and 1751 Fulton St.**, currently occupied by **Sunshine Cleaners** and a former restaurant/bar, and build a five-story mixed-use building in their place. The plan calls for nine residential units, retail and parking spaces.

Photos: Hoodline.com (Cane), HautLiving.com (Sait), Topetcher Architecture (Harding), Lisa Eastlack (Filming), Libby Estell (all others)

HEALTH AND BEAUTY



After extensive repairs to damage caused by a fire that ousted the previous tenants two years ago, two new studios have opened at 321 and 327 Divisadero. An *Arthur Murray Dance Studio* opened upstairs in August. It teaches tango, salsa, swing and more, Mon.-Fri. from 1-10 p.m. *Salt Fitness* opened downstairs in September. Classes at the boutique fitness studio start at \$20.

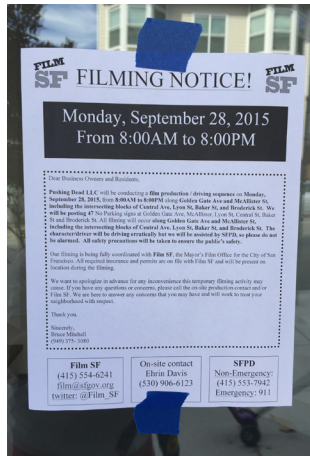


Cane sugaring studio opened in October at 803 Divisadero. The owners completely redesigned the former psychic shop to offer a full range of hair removal services for women and men.

THE ARTS



In October, *Our Victorian Schoolhouse* used funds raised partly at a bake sale during the NOPNA Sidewalk Sale in April to replace the vandalized mural on its roll-down gate. Artist, gallerist and NoPa resident Antione Marnata worked pro bono to create the colorful new “Imagine” mural.



Pushing Dead, a movie about a struggling, HIV-positive writer who loses his health plan when he deposits a \$100 birthday check, filmed all over the city in September. The locations included Golden Gate Avenue and McAllister Street, in the heart of NoPa. The film is not yet slated for distribution.

Keep an eye out for giant insects. Several spray-stenciled ladybugs—the work of street artist *fnnch*—have appeared on NoPa sidewalks.



Libby Estell is the managing editor of this newsletter. She has lived in NoPa for five years.

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REAL ESTATE

New Group Offers Spiritual Community for the Non-Religious

By Anders Peterson

What does community mean in a 21st-century urban environment? Today we are connected in ways that we could never have imagined a few decades ago, but many of us feel something's missing. We may have hundreds of friends through social media networks, but have never met our neighbors. We have a desire to do good, but we struggle to get civically engaged.

Religious institutions have long provided an outlet for this type of community, but the human need for meaningful connection evolved long before religious institutions—and it may outlive them, too. Today, more than a third of Bay Area residents are not affiliated with any religious community, but many of us still yearn for a nourishing, interconnected community.

Middle Circle is a new nonprofit founded by a team of local community members. The group is working to create these authentic, spiritual-but-not-religious, “church-like” communities. Their hub is located here in NoPa at St. Cyprian’s Church.

Middle Circle is developing mid-sized community groups, called

circles, around meaning-making, belonging, openness, service and common values. The organization aims to create spaces where community members can build deep, compassionate relationships through meaningful conversations and fun activities.

Check out middlecircle.org to explore the emerging groups, share ideas for a new circle, and learn how you can help foster curiosity, community and social good in your neighborhood.

Anders Peterson is a community chaplain and a founder of Middle Circle.



Middle Circle groups form around service and common values.



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How to Welcome All Diets to Your Holiday Table

By Stacey Ellis



Stacey Ellis is a vegan personal chef and owner of Herb'n Vegan.

As a personal chef specializing in vegan cuisine, I'm often hired by health-conscious people who not only love plant-based eating, but often have a few dietary preferences going on at the same time: gluten free, specific food combinations, non-GMO. The latest one gaining steam is "SOS-free," zero salt, oil or sugar.

It's my job to satisfy all desires without sacrificing the emotional experience of eating. But for home chefs, heightened food consciousness can complicate plans for a simple dinner party, let alone a holiday feast for 12. How do you please everyone? Here are some tips to keep mind:

1. Everyone wants to eat more healthfully—even people who seem unfettered by dietary trends. So lighten it up. Make your gathering a cornucopia of modern healthful takes on old favorites. Your guests will thank you.
2. Ask your guests if they have special dietary requests and build them into your menu for all to enjoy. By taking care

of food preferences up front, we put everyone at ease and can focus on creating memories with the people we love.

3. Invite people to bring a dish to share. It's a great way to ensure your guests have the options they need to enjoy themselves freely.

4. If you don't know everyone's dietary thing, go ahead and make some assumptions. Gluten, meat, dairy and nuts are common culprits. Let your crown roast, turkey or tofu be the stars, but apps, sides, and salads can be discreetly healthful and fill up a plate so beautifully that your guests may want for nothing more.

5. Tell guests how you've prepared everything. People love to talk about food and will be delighted to try something unusual or new.

We're fortunate to have the luxury of choosing what food we put into our bodies everyday. So let's be grateful this holiday season, and hey, maybe tread a little more lightly on our planet by forgoing that pound of butter or quart of cream. No one will miss it. I promise.

For healthful, plant-based holiday menu ideas, visit www.herbnvegan.com and download my free recipe PDF.

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Vision Zero

Pedestrian Safety Improvements Coming to Divisadero

By Tim Hickey



The SFMTA proposal will prohibit left turns on Divisadero at McAllister and Hayes during peak hours.

Photo: Libby Estell

Walking along one of the busiest streets in the neighborhood could soon be much safer. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency has proposed left turn restrictions along the heavily trafficked Divisadero corridor.

Unsafe left turns have caused numerous traffic collisions and been cited as a cause of unsafe conditions. The new restrictions will forbid left turns from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, on Divisadero Street at McAllister and Hayes streets. The rule applies to both

north- and southbound lanes. Muni buses are exempt.

Other changes are designed to smooth traffic on Divisadero. Traffic signals will be coordinated on the southbound side of the street, between O'Farrell and Hayes streets, so that traffic will generally arrive on a green light. This should help ensure that car traffic doesn't slow service on the 24-Divisadero, and may even improve it slightly.

The proposed changes are part of the Wiggle Neighborhood Green Corridor project. The traffic calming

and greening infrastructure program is a partnership between the SFMTA, the San Francisco Department of Public Works and the city's Public Utilities Commission. It is designed to reduce traffic collisions and divert rainwater from storm drains. More details can be found on the SFMTA website for Wiggle Neighborhood Green Corridor.

At press time, the proposal was awaiting final approval from the Board of Supervisors.

Tim Hickey is the president of the NOPNA board. He has lived in NoPa since 2010.

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Join our team of volunteer writers, photographers and designers or help us with distribution.

Interested? Contact board@nopna.org.



MOLLIE POE

Top Producer & NOPA Specialist



As a long-term resident of North Panhandle, a Mom with kids in local schools, and a strong supporter and advocate of everything NOPA (including the neighborhood association as a business member and avid sponsor), I regularly represent Buyers and Sellers within our wonderful neighborhood.

Please visit my website for further information on past sales and property presentations, or call me directly with any Real Estate inquiries.

If you are thinking of selling, I'd love to help with a market analysis of your property. Low inventory continues to drive our market and you maybe very surprised to find the 'hidden equity' in your home, given these market conditions. I have good insight into NOPA's Buyer pool, and I frequently have access to pocket listings and a proven strategy to get you the best results within NOPA's borders or other neighborhoods in our 7x7.

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