


NOPNA News

nopna.org

North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

2016 : issue 2



NOPNA: 25 Years of Respecting the Neighborhood

by J.J. Strahle

In 1971, *The Independent* was *The Kennel Club*, and covered in a mural.
Photo: Robert Rauschenberg Color Slide Collection at the San Francisco History Room at the San Francisco Public Library.

This is a milestone year for the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association, which started 25 years ago, in 1991. At the time, the neighborhood was a victim of the urban renewal efforts pushed on the Western Addition.

There were drugs, crime, empty storefronts and rundown apartments. Leading with the slogan, "Respect the Neighborhood," a group of concerned longtime and newer residents banded together to make a positive change. The idea was to take ownership and accountability for one's self and neighbors.

NOPNA's mission, last revised in 2010, remains true to that original idea:

NOPNA is a nonprofit organization of neighbors who care about the community, our city and our world. Our mission is to establish neighborhood unity, maintain multiethnic, multicultural 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.

In recent years, NOPNA has been involved in a variety of activities to further our mission. We recently raised funds for the victims of a fire in our neighborhood. For the past 12 years or so, we have built neighborhood pride with our annual summer block party, co-hosted with Parkside Market, our Halloween party and a holiday party.

As the city's population has grown, we have partnered with other neighborhood groups to get funding for Panhandle Park improvements, hold the sponsors of Bay to Breakers responsible for encouraging a more family-friendly and positive event, and push for streetscape upgrades to

(continued on page 3)

FROM THE BOARD

NoPa Comes Together. Oftentimes, communities are brought together when faced with a difficult circumstance. While the trigger can be something tragic, the result can be really special. We were reminded of this on February 13, when a three-alarm fire heavily damaged two buildings on Fulton Street and displaced 15 residents. Many neighbors volunteered their help, belongings and money at NOPNA's March 13 fundraiser for the fire victims. It was truly special to see people gather at The Independent to demonstrate their love and care for our community.

Throughout the year, NOPNA organizes neighborhood events designed to engage, educate and support one another. A strong sense of community allows us to have fun in the joyous times and care for one another in the adverse times. These occasions are great opportunities to meet local business owners, learn about community changes and developments, hear updates on safety issues and get to know your neighbors.

We invite you to join us for our 2016 events:

General Meetings at Oasis Café

Thursday, May 19, July 21, Sept. 15, Nov. 17

Annual NOPNA Block Party

Saturday, May 21

Pizza & Politics

Saturday, Oct. 15 (tentative)

Halloween Party

Monday, Oct. 31

Holiday Party

Saturday, Dec. 10

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for event details and reminders. You can also visit nopna.org to join our mailing list and sign up as a volunteer.



Kandace Kaylor is a 13-year resident of NoPa.

NOPNANews

The NOPNA News is published by the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association 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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PRINTING

Image Printing, San Francisco

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

Get The News?—Pay Your Dues! Your NOPNA membership gives us a stronger voice at City Hall and supports our efforts to create a clean, safe, and friendly neighborhood.

Please join us! You can sign up online at nopna.org.

For more information, call 415-267-6113.

Calendar of Events

Divisadero Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Grove@Divisadero

**SFPD Park Station
Community Meeting**

Tuesday, May 10, 6 p.m.
Park Station, 1899 Waller St.

**SFPD Northern Station
Community Meeting**

Thursday, May 12, 6 p.m.
Northern Station, 1125 Fillmore St.

**Panhandle Park Community
Work Day**

Saturday, May 14, 9–11 a.m.
Meet near the playground

NOPNA General Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.
Oasis Cafe, 901 Divisadero St.

NOPNA Block Party

Saturday, May 21, 10:00 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Lyon between Hayes and Grove

NOPNA: 25 Years

(continued)

Divisadero and Masonic. We continue to work closely with our District 5 Supervisor to find solutions to complex issues, including displacement and development.

In celebrating NOPNA's 25th year, we would like to hear from you about your experiences in the neighborhood. We are looking to publish profiles of long-term residents or stories you have from growing up in the neighborhood. Or maybe you have a story about a NOPNA Halloween or block party, or how you and your neighbors came together to help another neighbor. Please send your stories to board@nopna.org. Tell us a little about yourself, and let us know if we can publish your story.

NOPNA is open to any resident living within the boundaries of Fell, Turk, Masonic and Divisadero. In addition to this bimonthly newsletter, we host a bimonthly general meeting on the third Thursday of every odd-numbered month, at Oasis Cafe. We hope to see you at the next one on May 19 at 7pm.

J.J. Strahle is a member of the NOPNA board.



Hubcaps for sale on Divisadero (1991).

PHOTO: Robert Durden Color Slide Collection at the San Francisco History Room at the San Francisco Public Library



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Kava Herbal Cocktail Lounge Opens on Divisadero



Left: Construction at Kava Tea Lounge took more than two years. **Right:** Alva Caple, owner of Kava Tea Lounge.

PHOTOS: Mimi Sparrow

If you regularly walk the Divisadero corridor, you probably watched the extended buildout of the Kava Tea Lounge. The herbal cocktail lounge opened in late February on the northwest corner of Divisadero and McAllister.

Kava transformed a former discount store into a woodsy green lounge. Owner Alva Caple designed the interior, from the Balinese furniture and wrought iron railings down to the custom woodwork, lighting and exposed brick walls. A contoured bar, cozy front nook and elevated rear seating beckon guests.

Caple searched California and Colorado for a location before choosing San Francisco. It took him more than nine months to find the perfect space, and another four months to negotiate the lease at 901 Divisadero. His journey to build Kava took more than two years. The space underwent two seismic and one structural retrofit during construction.

"This space was not designed for a limited-use restaurant or lounge. It

took a lot of work. But we did it the right way. This building is going to be here for a long time," he said.

Caple is banking on the open, progressive, adventurous (and thirsty) nature of SF residents. He wants Kava to be a place to come relax with friends while ordering a concoction or two.

But what exactly is the lounge's namesake brew? Caple calls it "a massage in a coconut shell." Kava enthusiasts claim it relaxes the body without impacting mental clarity. And since kava is physically non-addictive, it is considered to be safer than alcohol. Informal therapeutic uses include the treatment of anxiety, insomnia, depression and stress.

Kava originated as a social, medicinal and ceremonial beverage more than 3,000 years ago in Polynesia, where it is still served in coconut shells. Fijians might drink a light kava beverage all day long, whereas on neighboring Vanuatu, islanders are more likely to drink stronger kava, typically in the evening. Well-travelled San Francis-

cans may have tried kava before, and if not, Caple thinks they will want to.

Kava is made from the root of the plant and served cold. Caple procures his kava root from Vanuatu, where there are more than 80 varieties of what islanders call "the root of happiness." The substance is self-regulated by the American Kava Association, a national trade association that works to ensure the cleanliness and purity of the product.

Caple opened Kava's large double doors with a limited drink and food menu to start. Over time, he will be rolling out more surprises. "You can expect raw and vegan treats, sweet and savory snacks, superfoods and the best tropical salad in the city," he promises.

Other plans include the addition of an indoor waterfall and herb garden at the entry and a new facade. Live music and art are also in the works. Kava is open daily, 4 p.m.–12 a.m.

Mimi Sparrow is a member of the NOPNA board.

Take your next step,

OWN A
LITTLE
PIECE
OF
NOPA



Whether you are looking to downsize or relocate, consider NOPA for your next move. NOPA provides the perfect environment every new or continuing homeowner is looking for. Take it from Bonnie, who has been living in NOPA for over 25 years. Bonnie is a master at assisting clients in taking that next step, for every stage of life. *Much more than just a Realtor, SHE'S A MENTOR.*



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Protect Yourself From Fire



A house fire on Fulton Street damaged two buildings. PHOTO: Madeline B./Hoodline

NoPa has many architecturally beautiful homes, built in the late 1800s and early 1900s. We don't think about these Victorian gems as posing a high fire risk, but they do. Our community was reminded of this in February, when a house fire on Fulton Street displaced 15 residents.

If you think you are immune to fires because you taken steps to prevent the kinds of fires that have destroyed homes and taken lives in our neighborhood, you're wrong. Only newer buildings incorporate designs with any significant fire protection.

The wonderful firefighters of San Francisco work quickly to put out the incredibly fast moving blazes that occur in the neighborhood. Engines from Station 21 at 1443 Grove St. near Baker Street are on the scene in minutes, but education to prevent

fires is the real key to protecting our homes and lives.

The SFFD investigates fires and has found some regular patterns and common causes behind how these fires start:

- Candles burning near flammable materials such as curtains
- Overloaded power strips in older homes that lack the ability to handle today's electronics
- Barbecue grills left unattended on wood decks
- Smoldering cigarettes disposed of in planter boxes and down light wells
- Household hazardous chemicals stored improperly or not disposed of when finished

Those are only some of the most common causes to watch for. There are additional steps everyone should take to protect ourselves in the event of a fire.

Smoke alarms are an essential life saving device; make sure your home has them and they are in working order. If you rent, landlords must provide working smoke detectors. The SFFD also provides free smoke detectors to qualifying low-income households.

It's not enough just to have smoke alarms, you must also check them regularly. Pick a date each month and set up reminders to make sure you test the batteries in every alarm. It takes five minutes.

In the event of a fire, insurance coverage plays an important role in helping victims recover. Most homeowners have insurance policies with coverage for replacement of their possessions, but renters might not always have this. Renters insurance is an inexpensive way—about \$12 per month, on average—to prevent a terrible situation from becoming catastrophic. Shop around for the best coverage for your needs, look for plans that offer replacement cost value, and take a photo or video inventory of your possessions (then store it in a safe offsite location).

Tim Hickey is president of the NOPNA board.

Salad Daze of Spring

Spring is here, and I for one am feeling a little more buoyant as I work on menus for clients, recipe development and “vegucating” the Bay Area on the restorative super powers of fruits and veggies. No other season fuels my passion for being a plant-based personal chef more than spring. Our palates are eager to be awakened by sweet fruits, while our bodies crave the nutrients of seasonal stars like asparagus, peas and spinach. It must be why, at this time of year, I get excited about salads.

On Sundays, I walk through our Grove Street Farmer’s Market, which is abundant now with spring arrivals like strawberries, asparagus and fava beans. In my head is a giant empty salad bowl. I shop, letting my imagination go wild, mentally adding each item to the bowl until it’s a work of art.

If you’ve ever been stumped on how to build a great salad at home, try my easy “Thrive on Five” ingredient template for your next spring salad creation.

1. A healthy portion of fresh lettuce. Mix dark and light leaf lettuces for color.
2. One roasted veggie. Asparagus, zucchini, cauliflower, new potatoes, golden or red beet, and broccoli florets are all good options.
3. One fresh fruit. Sliced strawberries, red or green grapes, pear and tangerine sections all make great choices.
4. One kind of toasted seed or nut. Hazelnuts, walnuts, pumpkin seeds, pine nuts and almonds work great.
5. A fantastic homemade vinaigrette (recipe below) or a diced avocado and lemon or favorite vinegar, if you’re avoiding oil.

Chef Stacy Ellis is a personal plant-based chef and owner of Herb’n Vegan. For information and recipes, visit herbnvegan.com. **PHOTOS:** Stacy Ellis



Easy Lemon Vinaigrette *(Makes about a cup)*

- 4 whole lemons or Myer lemons
- 2 Tbs. honey or maple syrup
- 1/3 c. extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ tsp. sea salt
- a pinch of black pepper

Squeeze the juice of all four lemons into a mixing bowl. Add in the honey or maple syrup and whisk. Slowly drizzle in the olive oil while whisking. Add the salt and pepper, give it another quick mix and enjoy.

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OUT AND ABOUT

What's New Around NoPa?

RECREATION

Several pedestrian safety improvements are coming to the multiuse path on the north side of **Panhandle Park** by late summer. Get ready for new striping and signage as well as new benches, trashcans, bike racks and even a water-bottle filler.

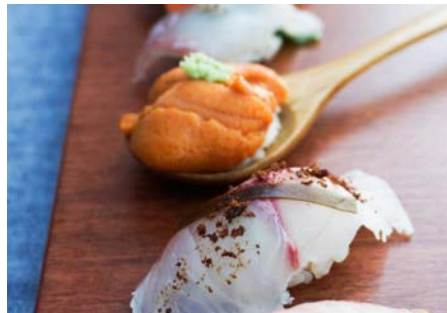


Alamo Square Park will close in April for a nine-month renovation. A full closure was the only way the Recreation and Parks Department could keep the project on budget and still deliver a new irrigation system and handicapped-accessible restroom as well as other improvements.



FOOD & DRINK

Ju-ni, the new omakase sushi concept in the former **Candybar** space at 1335 Fulton St., opened in late February. The "chef's choice" menu format offers 15 dishes for about \$90 per person.



Indian Paradox opened March 4 in the former **King Foot Sub** spot at 258 Divisadero St. The menu pairs small plates of Indian street food with wines from around the globe.



After 16 years on Divisadero, **Fly Bar** is under new ownership. Mike Sturm has passed the keys to the guys behind the Lopac Group, which also owns **Fishbowl Bar & Grill** in Lower Pac Heights. Sturm continues to own Fly's second location on Sutter Street in Lower Nob Hill.



At press time, **Horsefeather** was set to open in the former **Ziryab** space at 528 Divisadero. The bar had a temporary run as **Tsk/Tsk** before closing in January to complete its transition.

RETAIL

Health Haven closed for good in early March after 22 years on Divisadero, taking **Pet Haven** with it. We'll let you know when a new tenant signs on.

Libby Estell is the managing editor of the NOPNA News.

PHOTOS: Spinlister.com (Panhandle Park), Jeffrey Zeldman-Flickr (Alamo Square), Ju-ni, lucy_cho/Instagram (Indian Paradox), Libby Estell (Fly Bar)

Inside Tanner Goods and Topo Designs

Divisadero is a very different street than it was just a few years ago. Two of the latest harbingers of change are the new retailers between Grove and Hayes, Topo Designs and Tanner Goods.

Sandwiched between Mojo and Bar Crudo—in the storefronts formerly occupied by Cara Glass & Sash and Your Scents Trading—the two retailers have much in common. Each is the newest brick-and-mortar outlet of an existing out-of-state business: Topo is based in Colorado, and Tanner in Oregon. Both stores are new to San Francisco, and to NoPa, and opened within days of each other during the holidays. And both stores justify premium prices on the basis of quality products that are made in the USA.

Tanner Goods sells a range of menswear, but specializes in hand-crafted leather goods such as wallets and belts. The store’s interior is warm and inviting to welcome passersby in from the street—even if they don’t plan to purchase anything. To help draw folks in, Tanner plays new vinyl selections on some Sundays and is currently



Topo Designs sells a colorful range of outdoor goods.
 PHOTO: Ryan Tuttle/Topo, Jason Cauthen (Tanner)

hosting an art installation of a harmonograph, a vintage mechanical device that uses pendulums to draw a geometric image. (It’s cool—check it out).

Topo Designs makes and sells a variety of brightly-colored outdoor gear. The store has been connecting with the neighborhood as curious passers-by pop in and through occasional after-hours happy hours. The employees in the store are all SF residents, the newest of whom also lives in NoPa. Topo plans to hold

more events open to the community, including a geotagging race, outdoor photography workshops this summer, and a fundraiser in conjunction with the SF Skate Club.

If you’re walking around on Divis, be sure to drop by and welcome them to the neighborhood. Both stores are heavy users of Instagram, so follow them there to get the latest.

Jason Cauthen is a 25-year resident of San Francisco and has lived in NoPa since 2011.



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Meet Northern Station's New Captain

There's new leadership at the SFPD's Northern Station, which patrols the Divisadero corridor and a large swath of the city to the north and east.

In February, after three years at the station's helm, Capt. Greg McEachern was promoted to Commander of the department's Investigations Division. Now, John Jaim-erena, formerly the officer in charge of the SFPD Gang Task Force, has been promoted to captain and given command of Northern Station, at Fillmore and Turk.

You can meet him in person at the station's community meetings, held at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, or perhaps at an upcoming NOPNA General Meeting. Until then, we've asked Capt. Jaim-erena to introduce himself.



PHOTO: SFPD

My name is John Jaim-erena, and I am a newly promoted captain and the new commanding officer of Northern Police Station. I have been a police officer in San Francisco for 22 plus years, and my career has been evenly split between patrol and investigations.

My previous assignment was as the officer in charge of the Gang Task Force. Before that I was the swing watch patrol lieutenant in the Tenderloin District. I am familiar with the Northern Police District, having previously worked here for several years as a patrol sergeant.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling and was actually in Spain when I received the call regarding my promotion. I am also an avid hiker and enjoy going out to the ballpark to root for our San Francisco Giants!

Upon receiving the news that I was taking over at Northern Station, I couldn't have been more excited. I have a great working relationship with the previous captain, now Commander McEachern, and know that I can reach out to him for anything I may need.

I am committed to solving neighborhood problems, and I know that the best way to achieve this is by working closely with the community. I look forward to meeting with members of the community and maintaining open communication for years to come.

Brenda's MEAT & THREE

SO WHAT'S A MEAT & THREE?

A southern culinary tradition, a meat & three is a meal with one meat entrée and three side dishes, which the diner chooses from a list of options.

We pay homage to this tradition with our meat & three style diner.

Open everyday except Tuesday, 8am – 10pm
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Weekend Brunch

919 Divisadero St 415.926.8657
brendasmeatandthree.com

Taking Art to the Streets, Literally

There are many ways to make our streets safer, and traffic engineering measures are one of the more permanent yet expensive options. This includes things like pedestrian bulbs, medians, stop signs, traffic lights and speed bumps. But maybe there is a less costly but equally effective option, something more aesthetically appealing than a pedestrian bulb.

Beautiful murals cover the walls of many San Francisco buildings, representing our neighborhoods' diverse cultures. When taken horizontal and painted in intersections, those murals can do more than reflect and increase a sense of community: they can help slow traffic and make our streets safer.

Although San Francisco doesn't currently offer an intersection mural program for community members, street murals are an approved element of the city's Green Connections plan to connect people to parks via a network of safer streets. Pedestrian advocacy group Walk SF is working with the city to initiate a intersection mural program, and NOPNA is working with the nonprofit to determine if our neighborhood can support one.

Check nopna.org for more information about requirements and possible locations and complete a survey about which streets you think are the best candidate for a mural.

Tim Hickey is the president of the NOPNA board.



Top: A painted intersection in Philadelphia.
PHOTO: Southofsouth.org

Left: A painted intersection in Seattle.
PHOTO: Greatcity.org

Right: A painted intersection in Vancouver, Wash.
PHOTO: Cityofvancouver.us

LOOKING FOR AWESOME PEOPLE TO JOIN NOPNA NEWS

Managing Editor

Are you a writer/editor with a passion for our neighborhood? NOPNA is looking for a team player with good project management skills to be our next managing editor of the award-winning NOPNA News.

Web Manager

This volunteer position maintains the NOPNA website. Tasks include posting content and handling other IT administrative tasks. The ideal candidate likes to be creative, a good problem solver and enjoys working with the community.

If you're interested, please email 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.

MY RECENT NOPA SALES

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SOLD \$1,030,000

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WWW.1157BRODERICK.COM

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