

NOPNA News

A Publication of the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

2018 : issue 3



PHOTO: Joseph Wilinski

OUT AND ABOUT

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOPNA GENERAL MEETING

Oasis Cafe • 901 Divisadero
Thursday, Sept 20th, 2018 - 7pm
Thursday, Nov 15th, 2018 - 7pm

WESTERN ADDITION

SUNDAY STREETS AND SIDEWALK SALE - Sept 9th

HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY - Oct 31st
NOPNA HOLIDAY PARTY - stay tuned for details!

SFPD PARK STATION COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Park Station Community Room
Second Tuesday each month, 6pm

DIVISADERO FARMERS MARKET

Grove@Divisadero, Sundays, 10am-2pm

PANHANDLE PARK STEWARDS

Second Saturday each month, 9am-12pm
Bulletin Board near Panhandle Playground
panhandlepark.blogspot.com

The face of Divisadero continues to evolve, with multiple new establishments of both the culinary and retail variety — and a few mysteries in the works. The new offerings are almost all second or third locations for the business, which represents a notable shift in the vibe of NOPA.

Some months back we introduced you to The Emporium, a 1980s style arcade carved out of the historic Harding Theatre. Completing that long vacant stretch of the street, the two storefronts flanking the Emporium have now filled up. On the right is the latest location of a local chain called **Loving Cup** Frozen Yogurt. On the left, the second location of Fillmore-founded Asmbly Hall has opened its doors.

As its name implies, The Loving Cup is a decent spot for a cup of fro-yo, with a construct-your-own approach. You start with chocolate or vanilla then add a variety of additions and toppings to complete a tasty creation in either a cup or a waffle cone. You can proudly strut your creation about as you continue your Divisadero adventure. The Loving Cup may not be worth a special trip, but for those looking for a (slightly) less fattening alternative to a Bi-Rite cone, it's a good bet.

Asmbly Hall is a reasonably priced boutique with a street smart aesthetic that is working hard to favor local San Francisco designers and artists in their offerings.

(continued on page 3)



Contact us:

board@nopna.org or www.nopna.org

FROM THE BOARD

Are you as involved as you want to be?

We're half way through 2018, and it's been a busy year so far. NOPNA chose five areas of focus for 2018: Great Events, Pedestrian Safety, Financial Stability, Growing the Board, and Promoting and Communicating what we do. We also added three new board members, enjoyed beautiful weather at a bustling block party, endorsed the city's plan to remove parking spaces to increase visibility on Fell Street, and have taken great steps on getting the word out about our events and activities, and on balancing our books as well. Lastly, in keeping with our historic focus on housing, we've coordinated a community forum with the developers of 400 Divisadero.



Jason Cauthen
Editor of the
NOPNA News, and
recently became Vice
President, focusing
on volunteer
outreach.

So, as you can tell, we've been busy! We are a volunteer organization, and the only way this works is when we all get involved and pitch in alongside our neighbors. We all have families, demanding jobs, and other obligations — and we know you do too. Everyone should have the opportunity to be as involved in their community as they want, even if there's only room for a small amount of time. So, are you as involved as you'd like to be?

As we kick off a volunteer drive in the second half of the year, let me share a few different ways to get involved, whether you want to be **Informed**, a **Supporter**, an **Active Participant**, or **Leadership**:

INVOLVEMENT LEVEL	WHY DO IT?	WHAT TO DO?
INFORMED	Stay on top of what's going on.	You're doing it! Read the NOPNA News. Join the email list. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor. Attend our general meetings.
SUPPORTER	Contribute in bite-size amounts.	Take a shift as a traffic monitor for our Halloween event or deliver the News. No time? Consider a small monetary donation to NOPNA!
ACTIVE PARTICIPANT	Enhance and improve our community.	Help coordinate or lead events (e.g., Halloween, Block Party, etc.); bring your writing, editing, graphical or photography talents to the NOPNA News!
LEADERSHIP	Build the community you want to live in.	Join the board! Take ownership for a key initiative, event, neighborhood topic (e.g. housing), or functional responsibility (e.g., web).



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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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.

Your financial support allows NOPNA to cover the costs of our newsletters, community building events like our block party and holiday party, public art projects in the neighborhood, and other activities that enrich our dynamic neighborhood. It also supports this site.

Make a difference on our streets and become a member today!

Contact NOPNA

board@nopna.org

www.nopna.org

If you'd like to get more involved, send an email to volunteer@nopna.org. We'd love your help in whatever way works best for you.

OUT AND ABOUT (continued)



Cover image, Che Fico (left) on Divisadero. Above from left, Asmbly Hall, a cup from Loving Cup, and Zaytoon. PHOTOS: Joseph Wilinski

The art on the wall is for sale and a good selection of men's and women's apparel is for sale. They also have a cute selection of toddler outfits to compliment your look, if you're the kind of person who likes to match your baby.

Next door to the ageless Bean Bag Cafe, the new "Mediterranean" eatery **Zaytoon** has opened its doors. Another second location (the first is on Valencia), Zaytoon offers a casual vibe and very reasonably priced wraps and other delights. It's a solid offering on a stretch of street that has long lacked a good shwarma. **Boba Guys** has also expanded with a new location at 836 Divisadero. If you haven't tried boba tea, it's a truly unique concept. A variety of

teas are served both cold and hot, with tapioca balls — sweet little globs of goodness — dropped into the tea. You drink the tea through an oversized straw which also sucks the tapioca balls through one by one resulting in a tasty drink with a rather pleasing aesthetic.

Upstairs from Boba Guys, and sporting the coolest sign on the block, you can't miss the rise of **Che Fico**, the hottest ticket on Divisadero since the opening of Nopa. A self-described "Italian Taverna", Che Fico offers southern Italian classics with plenty of California twists. Thoughtful, sustainable, and definitely on the pricey side, make your reservations now as it might be a while before

you get in. (I've been trying to get a reservation for a month and have yet to get lucky.)

In the all-original category, occupying the former site of MoJo Cafe, comes a new wine and beer bar called "**Fool's Errand**". The space is so named because, well, how many wine bars can the city hold? Evidently at least one more. Fool's Errand will be open late (midnight!) looking to fill both the "pre-dinner" and the "post-show" crowd. Right now, the bar is offering a basic but solid set of cheese and charcuterie plates along with a small and well curated selection of beer and wine. More small plate offerings are in the works and we can all look forward to reoccupying the parklet.

Nick Aster is a 20 year San Francisco resident and media architect with a strong interest in sustainability and city life.

FORD GOBIKE - WE ASKED AND YOU ANSWERED

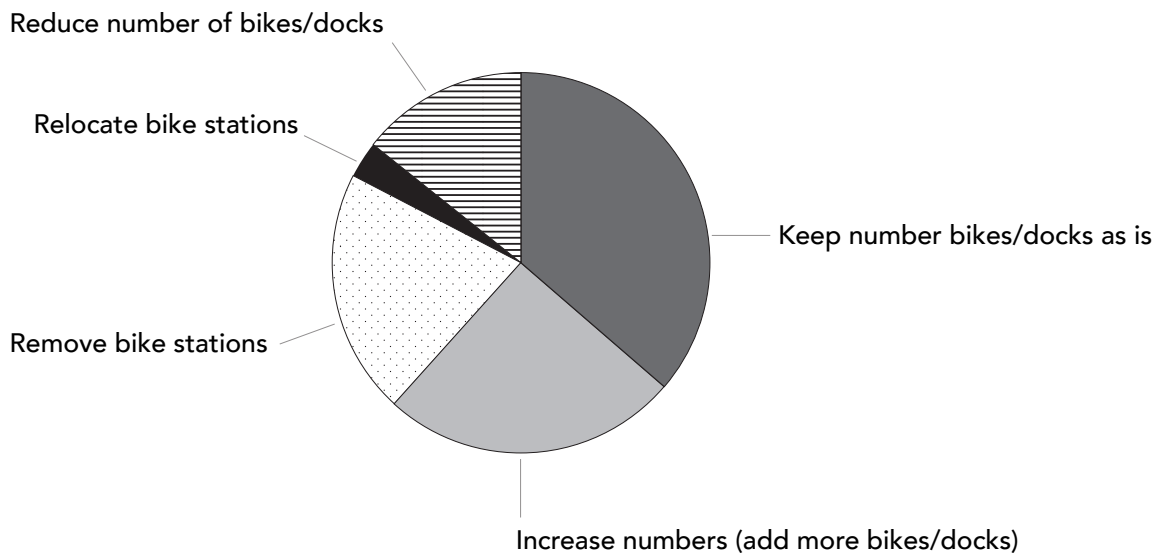
NOPNA first reported on the proposed Bay Area Bike Share expansion into the North Panhandle in the January/February Newsletter of 2017. Following installation of Motivate's Ford GoBikes on August 11, 2017, NOPNA requested an evaluation from Motivate and also planned a survey to obtain feedback from neighbors regarding the bikes. NOPNA invited a Motivate representative to two general meetings,¹ in September 2017 and March 2018, to discuss progress of the program and take questions from neighbors. To solicit additional feedback from the community, NOPNA launched a survey this May to garner further feedback. Here are some of the results.

Over seven weeks, a total of 262 responses were collected, of which 84% were North Panhandle residents. Through it, we see some disparity between Motivate's data and the experience of survey respondents. For instance, though Ford GoBike's data show ridership growing rapidly from 4,700 rides in the fourth quarter of 2017 to 7,710 in the second quarter of 2018, 60% of survey respondents had not used a Motivate Ford GoBike. Additionally, one of

Motivate's primary claims on behalf of GoBike is that it reduces car ownership, but in our survey, we found that GoBikes were instead most often used as a substitute for ride-sharing services.

The survey results also speak to neighborhood residents' mixed feelings about the number, size, and locations of the GoBike stations. When asked if the placement of existing locations were suitable, 54% said "yes", 26% said no, with many comments requesting additional locations be added west of Masonic. With regard to the continued increase in the number of GoBike stations, 48% of respondents were in favor of continued expansion, 31% favored moratorium for the remainder of 2018, 15% of respondents chose other, with frequent commentary about the amount of space taken up by the docks. On the question of whether the existing docks at each station should be permitted to expand capacity, the neighborhood was somewhat split: with 25% seeking to expand number of docks at the existing stations, 36% preferred to keep them the same size, and 20% who would like the removal of bike stations.

Neighbors have diverse views on what should happen with Ford GoBike stations in the neighborhood.

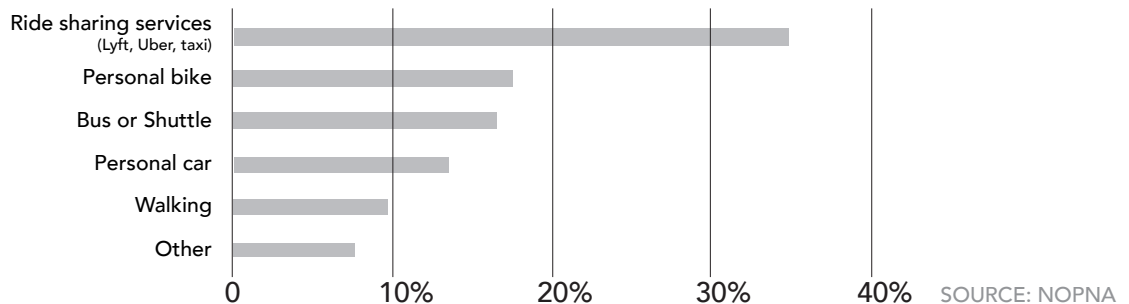


SOURCE: NOPNA

FORD GOBIKE (continued)



Types of transportation that Ford GoBike most substitutes for...



Given the different viewpoints of the neighborhood, NOPNA will have a lot to consider on the presence and effect of GoBike stations in NOPA. NOPNA wants to thank the members of the community who took time to complete the Ford GoBike survey. We received more than 140 comments and, in the coming months, plan to review each comment and the survey results in further depth, then make a decision on NOPNA’s position with respect to the Ford GoBikes in our neighborhood. If you would like to see the full survey results, they are currently available on the NOPNA website at www.NOPNA.org. We will provide an update in coming issues of the NOPNA Newsletter. Stay tuned . . .

Charles Dupigny and Jennifer Brandl. Charles Dupigny is the President of the NOPNA Board and focuses on sustainability and quality issues in our neighborhood. Jennifer Brandl is a neighborhood resident since 2013, NOPNA News aficionado, and NOPA business patron. She is passionate about volunteering and being a contribution to communities.



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NOPA BLOCK PARTY



Thank you to all of the 2018 Block Party Supporters!

GOLD

Mollie Poe/Declan Hickey with Compass

SILVER

Emporium

BRONZE

Pota Perimenis, Jennifer Rosdail, Topo Designs

PARTICIPANTS

Souvla, Central Coffee & Tea, Home Sweet Om, The Native Daughters of the Golden West, Kathy McCarthy-The Heights Chiropractic, Bi-Rite, The Jenny Kerr Band, Randall Museum, NERT, ALERT, SFPD-Park Station, Kid's bake sale, Dylan Lemonade, Katie Klingensmith & Family, Neighbors on Baker street (between Fulton & Grove)



PHOTOS: Joseph Wilinski

Sunshine and warm temperatures welcomed the neighborhood to summer during this year's annual NOPA Block Party. Neighborhood participation and attendance, by both residents and businesses, were impressive. Everyone had a great time with new and long-time neighbors, enjoying music, family yoga, a fire truck, a bounce house, games, and food from local vendors.

In particular, there were two notable features this year: a lemonade and baked goods stand in honor of Dylan Leeder and the History Corner. A young inspiration to all of us in NOPA, Dylan, age 9, and his family were raising money and awareness for leukemia research as he himself battles it. The support from the neighborhood was astounding, with 13 families providing the lemonade and baked goods that raised over \$2,000 as part of their larger fundraising efforts.

A second feature hosted by the Native Daughters of the Golden West, was a historical photographic journey of our neighborhood researched by long-time resident Doug Diboll with contemporary photographs contributed by Joseph Wilinski (who also photographs for the NOPNA News). The photos, each in black and white, brought the viewer back in time with a sense of awe that some neighborhood features still exist today and leaving viewers with a sense of hope and tradition.

None of this would have happened without the support of our incredible neighbors. We owe a big "thank you" to the families on Baker, between Fulton and Central, the volunteers who came out to help set up and break down the event, our local businesses that hosted tables, and our sponsors. We look forward to seeing everyone at the NOPA Block Party again next year!



With every neighborhood comes a community of unique and diverse people, restaurants and locales. Moving to a new neighborhood and becoming part of a new community is one of the many joys of building a new life in a new area. Choose NOPA for your next move and establish roots in the distinct community that comes with it. Take it from Bonnie, who has lived in NOPA for over 25 years.



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PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVES ON FELL ST.

NOPNA recently endorsed an SFMTA proposal to implement daylighting measures on Fell Street, between Baker and Masonic. The final proposal, approved at a May 15th public hearing, will include the removal of 9 – 10 parking spots on both the North and South side of Fell Street. The original proposal, presented during the NOPNA general meeting early this year, would have likely removed around 30 spots but feedback from the community led the SFMTA to pursue a plan that reduced the impact to parking.

Fell Street has been a high injury corridor for many years and residents have long called for traffic calming measures. The danger became tragically obvious last October, when David Grinberg, a Mercy Manor resident, was struck and killed at the intersection of Fell and Baker. The daylighting measures proposed by the SFMTA have proven to promote pedestrian safety by providing improved visibility of pedestrians at intersections. These changes



complement the recently reduced speed limit along Fell which was introduced earlier this year.

NOPNA and the SFMTA both have vowed to continue monitoring pedestrian safety along the Fell corridor and to respond with additional safety measures as needed. After choosing pedestrian safety as a priority for 2018, NOPNA formed the Vision Zero subcommittee in order to identify and address this issue proactively. The SFMTA plans to implement the daylighting changes after completion of the current utility repairs, likely in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Julian Mackie has lived in the neighborhood for two years. When he isn't working, he's focused on housing and pedestrian safety.

Jennifer Rosdail
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LARRY GRIFFIN, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST: 50 YEARS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Let's go back in time for a moment, through the recollection of Larry Griffin: Western Addition, 1962. The booming jazz scene on Divisadero Street was in full swing. To the west on McAllister Street, the block between Central and Lyon alone was home to two grocery stores, two laundromats, a barber shop, a scaffolding yard, two funk/blues bars, and an auto body shop.

Larry was born in San Francisco and his grandparents bought a place for the family on McAllister Street near Lyon in 1962 when he was eight years old. Fast forward 52 years — after a couple brief stints in other San Francisco neighborhoods over the years — Larry is back in the building he grew up in. He is a well-known friendly face in NOPA and a visible, active member of the San Francisco community.

Larry's deep involvement in the community stems from his politically and socially active upbringing. Larry's father, Herman Griffin, started a police community relations program for Western Addition neighbors back in the 1970s. Herman and his wife, Estelle Klein, were also one of the first interracial couples to be married in San Francisco after the California law banning interracial marriages was rescinded on January 1, 1949. Larry's parents were open about the hostility they faced, but countered adversity with unwavering service to the community.

Herman also volunteered coaching youth basketball at the Booker T. Washington Community Center when Larry was a kid. Now, Larry serves as the President of the Board for that same organization, which provides a broad range of programs for children. Additionally, Larry has been

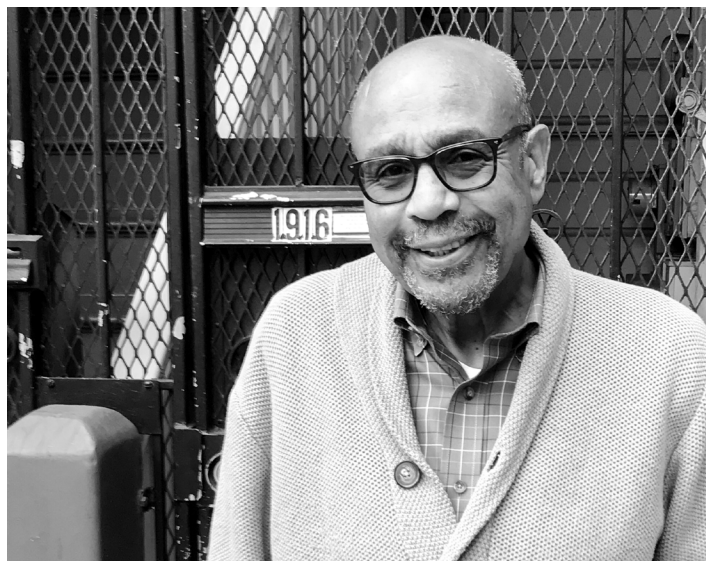


Photo: Larry Griffin.

involved in local politics since 1975 and has since served in a number of roles with the city government. In addition to the four organizations in which he's currently involved, he also works as a Compliance Officer enforcing labor laws. "I'm trying to make people's lives better; that's what I'm doing at City Hall, trying to recover stolen wages," said Larry. "I couldn't sit back and do nothing."

While Larry participates in the city community at large, he's also an inspiration for our smaller community of NOPA. Larry's the neighbor who makes your day a little brighter with a simple hello when you pass on the street; the neighbor who walks into a local establishment and makes a point to get to know and joke around with the servers; and the neighbor who brings a smile to your face with his gentle spirit and kind demeanor. His words serve as a reminder that we each must strive to positively impact our community and city, lest we all sit back and do nothing.

Meg Rahner is a Pennsylvania native who has lived in NOPA since she moved to San Francisco in 2010. She works for a public relations agency downtown and recently joined the NOPNA board.

MICRO HISTORY

NOPA TROLLEY



PHOTO: McAllister St. Car House 1948, looking NE from Fulton and Masonic. Western Neighborhoods Project - wnp27.3834

San Francisco's earliest public transportation was a hodge-podge of privately owned street railway companies. In 1857, Thomas Hayes, who owned a tract that included NOPA, plus a great deal more land, received the franchise to operate the city's first street railway. By 1868 Hayes had sold his franchise to the Market Street Railway, which extended the horse-drawn railway coach service to Hayes and Divisadero and McAllister and Laguna streets. According to a June 7, 1948 Chronicle article, the trolley was a leisurely way to travel. When a car slipped off the track, passengers disembarked to help lift it back on. Conductors waited for regulars to finish breakfast and helped drunks to their front doors. Cable cars replaced horses on the Hayes and McAllister lines between 1883 and 1885. Then, after the 1906 earthquake, electric trolleys succeeded the cable cars, although their unsightly overhead wires were controversial. In 1944, the Market Street Railway (owned by the Southern Pacific Railroad robber barons) merged with the city-owned Municipal Railway. Muni made the switch to the electric buses that still run today on Hayes and Fulton/McAllister streets in 1946.

Linda Ackerman leads free City Guides tours of NOPA. For the next tour see http://sfcityguides.org/current_schedule.html.



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ANNOUNCING: THE NOPNA YOUTH ADVOCACY BOARD

I've lived in the neighborhood all 17 years of my life and I've decided I wanted to give back by being a more active member of my community and forming the NOPNA Youth Advocacy Board. The NOPNA Youth Advocacy Board is a collective of youth members of the NOPA community who are eager to serve a larger role in improving the neighborhood and connecting with others.

The goals of the Youth Advocacy Board are: to provide insight into the youth perspective of the issues and events in the neighborhood; to connect members of the youth community with one another; to create a strong body of volunteers to assist throughout the neighborhood; and finally, to serve as a resource for parents with information about anything from high school experiences to college preparation.

The Youth Advocacy Board operates independently

from NOPNA board (i.e., separate meetings and events) although we are often assisted and directed by experienced NOPNA board members. We are always seeking membership from any members of the youth community, ages 13 to 19. We meet once a month and we are preparing to have multiple teen/youth community events over the course of the year. For example, we are organizing a "teen night" that will bring young members of the community together.

If you are a young person interested in getting involved with the NOPNA Youth Advocacy Board, or a parent who would like to hear about the high school experience and college preparation, please contact Trevor Higgins at trevorhiggins@gmail.com.

Trevor Higgins is 17 years old and had lived in the neighborhood all his life. He is beginning his senior year at Lowell High School.



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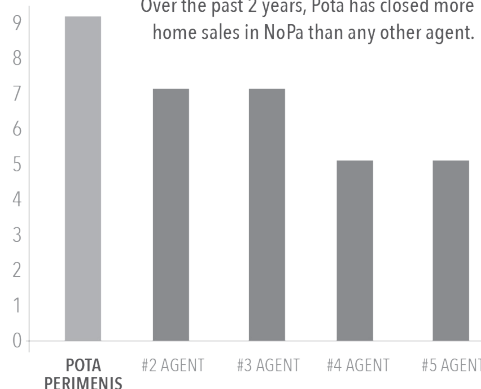
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Just Sold

751 Baker Street

3 BED | 1 BATH | \$1,325,000

Built in 1900, this 3 bed / 1 bath stately Edwardian Condo has striking original details, a recently updated kitchen and remodeled bathroom.



Just Sold

1951 Golden Gate Ave

2 BED | 2 BATH | \$1,500,000

This lower Level NOPA Condo is complete with 2 Bedrooms / 2 Full Bathrooms. Deeded bonus room with large patio and exclusive use garden. Remodeled Kitchen & Baths with 1 car side-by-side parking. Sold off-market.