NOPNANews

A Publication of the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

2019: issue 2





The 19th Annual NOPA Block Party

Baker St. between Fulton and Grove Saturday, June 1 | 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Food & Drink | Street Games | Crafts & Face Painting | Bouncy House | Live Music | Nametag Day Participation

Email us to get involved: board@nopna.org



There's always something new to explore in NOPA, which is perhaps why residents find Divisadero bustling with traffic on any given weekend. But with new bars, restaurants, and shops opening all the time, as well as regular Art Walks (next one June 13th!) why go anywhere else?

Mangrove Kitchen adds some welcome diversity to Divisadero and Oak. The Thai restaurant opened doors over the summer serving classics like tom yum soup, papaya salad, and curries. Plenty of options for vegetarians and meat eaters, as well as Thai iced teas and low-alcohol cocktails. The nautical-themed interior creates a spirited (albeit confused) vibe and service is speedy, too. Order ahead online or for delivery if you're

feeling reclusive, tangles of noodles await.

Che Fico is growing: Chef David Nayfield's acclaimed Jewish-Italian taverna (Gwyneth Paltrow's a fan, among many) opens a more casual wine bar and retail space with Che Fico Alimentari. The extension will be located just downstairs from the mothership on Divisadero and McAllister, and offers both dine-in and take home options. Expect a more Italian-focused menu (antipasti, cured meats, gelato) at lower price points with plenty of interesting wine pairings. Stay tuned for bottles to go when Alimentari's retail license arrives this summer, an event sure to upgrade the contents of park-destined picnic baskets everywhere.

(continued on page 4)

FROM THE BOARD - LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE

I originally joined NOPNA as a way of giving back and meeting neighbors. What immediately struck me was the role NOPNA played in influencing the decisions that most impact the community: from safety, to transportation, to land use. Conversations about land use with community members, focused on new developments or changes to streets and sidewalks, proved to be the most contentious — and for good reason. New developments not only represent a change to our built environment, they also serve as key contributors to livability, sustainability, and opportunity. NOPNA has the opportunity to engage and amplify the voice of our community in these conversations. For this reason, we've decided to launch our first ever land use subcommittee.

The committee will be responsible for tracking and responding to land use and zoning proposals, both residential and retail, that substantially impact our neighborhood. We plan to work with neighborhood groups, government organizations, and the broader community to ensure a diverse perspective in our responses to developers and other impacted parties.

NOPA neighbors will have many opportunities to provide input: we will host information sessions, conduct surveys, and use other communication channels. The committee will meet bi-quarterly and will include board members and other neighborhood residents with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. In taking positions, the committee will be explicit in the projects we focus on and how we evaluate them (e.g., impacts to neighborhood livability, affordability, and sustainability). We want our efforts to be focused and effective.

What excites me most about our work is the opportunity to collectively shape our community through empathy and action and to ensure that new developments make our neighborhood greater than the sum of its parts. If you are interested in joining the conversation, reach out to me at

Julian@Nopna.org.

Julian Mackie serves as the Vice President of NOPNA and is focused on housing and

UPCOMING EVENTS



NOPNA BLOCK PARTY Saturday, June 1st, 11am-3pm. Baker Street - Fulton to Grove

NOPNA GENERAL MEETING [NOPNA.org], City Real Estate - 629 Divsadero Thursday, July 18 - 7pm; Thursday, September 17 - 7pm

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



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

THE BAKER STREET FIRE FUNDRAISER



PHOTO: Damage to residential building at the corner of Baker and Hayes Street. Photo Credit: Joseph Wilinski. www.joewilinski.com

On March 14th, 2019, NOPNA partnered with the Divisadero Merchant Association, and the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association to raise funds for neighbors who were displaced by a fire late last year. At the Divisadero Art Walk we raised \$2,000 in donations to be evenly distributed to the displaced neighbors. The main goal in this effort was to come together for our neighbors, while their homes on Baker Street are being restored.

On December 14th, 2018, a residential building at the corner of Baker and Hayes Street caught on fire. Fortunately no one was hurt, but 22 long-time neighbors were displaced — some were seniors, a few have disabilities (one uses a wheelchair). Twenty of the 22 (two declined services) have been placed into permanent housing, with rental assistance from the city rental subsidy program.

The North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association would like to thank our neighbors, Divisadero Merchant Association, Alamo Square Neighborhood Association, Bi-Rite, Che Fico, Emporium, Souvla, Red Cross, The Supervisor's Office, and the disaster response team, for all of their efforts or contributions!

Charles Dupigny is the President of the NOPNA Board and focuses on sustainability and quality issues in our neighborhood.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

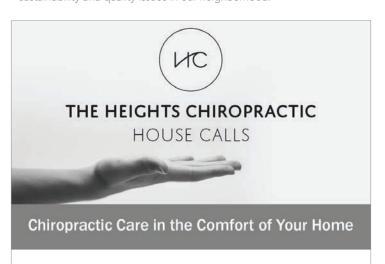
RE: Developing NOPA, How Neighbors Influenced Petrini Plaza. Issue 2019:1

Certainly, our city is under tremendous pressure to create more affordable housing, but I would caution in putting too much faith in the good intentions of private real estate developers.

Sensible, smart growth with input from NOPA residents is the only possible answer. All developers are not created equal; some are reasonable, respect the neighborhood and are open to dialogue. Others not.

Green lighting projects for some vague promise of affordability will not meet the needs of the City nor the NOPA community.

- Steve Nuzzo, NOPA resident



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OUT & ABOUT (continued)



PHOTO: clockwise from left, Mangrove Kitchen interior space, inside City real estate, shop front of Che Fico Alimentari. Photo Credit: Lydia Horne

City Real Estate opens its HQ on Divisadero, a sleek glassed office between Hayes and Grove. The full-service real estate firm represents buyers and sellers all over the city with rentals and homes for sale. With eleven agents at your service, pop in to find your next million dollar Victorian or just a sweet crash pad until your company IPOs. City Real Estate has been graciously hosting NOPNA general meetings in their new space since March of this year.

Looking for gifts or trinkets? Perdita on Divisadero (between Oak and Page) offers handmade goods by independent makers — think home goods, books, stationery, and accessories. Prices range from \$2 (stickers) to \$300 (hand-beaded bag), although most items are under \$100. Capitalizing on the hygge aesthetic, the store offers monthly craft nights, book clubs, and other events. Says owner Liz Lucero, "It's been so great getting to know people in the neighborhood, it really feels like a community."

SAN FRANCISCO DAY SCHOOL UPDATE

San Francisco Day School (SFDS), on the corner of Masonic and Golden Gate Avenues, has been a staple in the NOPA neighborhood since 1977. Neighborhood residents might be familiar with the school's plans to expand its campus, as it has hosted community meetings to hear feedback on issues like traffic and noise levels around school grounds. But with the campus expansion also comes plans for the school to increase its presence within the local community.

Head of School Dr. Mike Walker sat down with the NOPNA News at the end of April to discuss expansion plans and the school's neighborhood impact. It is in the process of getting permits and plans to begin construction next year. SFDS's expansion includes updates to main school facilities and plans to renovate and convert two adjacent homes into multi-unit apartments for SFDS teachers. The school purchased the older Victorians in the early 2000's, and Dr. Walker hopes that the housing options will help recruit and retain teachers, and integrate them into the neighborhood community.

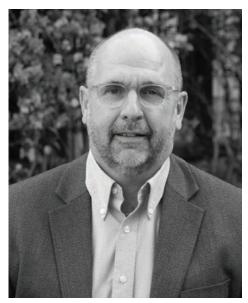


PHOTO: Dr. Mike Walker of SFDS. Photo Courtesy of: SFDS.

Dr. Walker also emphasized the expansion's impact on community programs like Breakthrough.
Breakthrough was started at SFDS in 1993 and currently brings non-SFDS students to campus each weekday for rigorous after-school academic programming. Neighbors might have noticed after-school traffic and Dr. Walker emphasized that the difficult logistics of turning over 400 SFDS students and almost 200 Breakthrough students over the course of a few hours. "At 3:30 in the afternoon, our

kids are being dismissed, but then we've got Breakthrough kids arriving too, and I'd love for the neighborhood to understand that." In addition to Breakthrough, SFDS opens up its facilities to organizations like the Girl Scouts and the Bay Area Teacher Training Institute, and it also serves as both an SSAT testing site and voting site during election cycles.

Other educational institutions make efforts to integrate with the local community. The University of San Francisco offers local residents a discounted gym membership, and Head Royce School allows neighbors to access its outdoor facilities like tennis courts, sports fields, and basketball courts after school hours. Working with the local community is "one of the things we've learned over the last 10 years," said Dr. Walker, and he hopes that expansion will continue the trend of integration in the future.

If you would like to learn more about the SFDS Expansion or community engagement efforts, please contact the Office of the Head of School by email at bvoss@sfday.org or phone at 415-568-3602.

Angeli Agrawal - is a Bay Area native who found out about NOPNA News by reading it in Matching Half Cafe.

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH IN NOPA: PART 2

This series originated out of some concerns of mine and a bit of curiosity—as a homeowner on Broderick Street since 1977: 1. Concern with the rapid exodus of African Americans from San Francisco; 2. Concern with the demographic changes in this neighborhood, and 3. Curiosity as to the fate of the African American church in this neighborhood.

In part 1 (2019:Issue 1), I identified seven African American churches in NOPA and I provided a short narrative profile of one: First AME Zion. In this issue, I bring a depiction of two churches, but I also raise here the suggestion that the African American churches in our neighborhood echo the NOPNA mission: "to maintain multi-ethnic and multiculture diversity...and foster a sense of neighborhood pride..."; for the African American churches in NOPA areas the religious historian Judith Weisenfeld has written— "arenas...to affirm black humanity, cultivate creativity, nurture families, and enable spiritual expression."

Little Zion Baptist Church and New Liberation Presbyterian Church share a historical and land use lineage: both are currently situated on land provided through the mechanism of the Western Addition A-2 redevelopment program.

Little Zion Baptist Church, 1245 Divisadero Street

Little Zion, originally located on Fillmore Street between Bush and Pine Streets, was founded in 1955 by the late Reverend W.R. Drummer; its current site was dedicated on August 14, 1977. Rev. Drummer was an active participant in the community organization opposing the Western Addition A-2 redevelopment program.

The current pastor, Reverend Timothy Dupré, is in his fourth year at the church. I visited Little Zion on three Sundays and talked with Rev. Dupré at length after the service. He speaks with confidence about the difficulties of sustaining Little Zion in this current era of gentrification. In one of our discussions, he informed me that the church had been approached by a nearby developer, who offered \$50,000

to purchase the church's adjacent parking strip. The church refused the offer. In recounting this episode, Rev. Dupré, with a friendly smile, stated firmly: "Little Zion is not for sale."

New Liberation Presbyterian Church, 1100 Divisadero

New Liberation was founded on May 27, 1973 with the present site dedicated on February 22, 1976. The founder of New Liberation is the late Reverend Dr. Hannibal A. Williams. Hannibal Williams is an iconic figure in community activist circles due to his fierce and vigorous leadership of WACO (Western Addition Community Organizations), the principal organization in opposition to the Western Addition redevelopment program.

I made three Sunday visits to New Liberation. However, on each visit, the doors were locked and the customary signs of an active church were absent. Because of New Liberation's revered pedigree, I wanted to be certain of the church's status before writing of its possible decline, so on Sunday, April 28 I made another visit. I was delighted to find the doors open. When I entered the sanctuary, I witnessed an energetic young African American man delivering a rousing sermon to a rapt multi-racial gathering of 20. I could not stay for the entire service, but I have been informed that a new pastor has been assigned to New Liberation, Rev. Stewart Perrillat. I will return soon to meet the new pastor and find out if a rebirth is underway at New Liberation.

The black churches in NOPA have survived the relentless forces of gentrification in this neighborhood and the steady emigration of African Americans from San Francisco — a paradox that meaningfully, I believe, aligns these black churches with the NOPNA mission statement by maintaining a multi-racial and multi-cultural presence in this vibrant neighborhood.



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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HOME SHARE MATCH-MAKING -A NEW SERVICE TO FIND THE PERFECT HOUSEMATE



PHOTO: A happy Home Match pairing anticipates move-in day. Photo credit: Home Match SF.

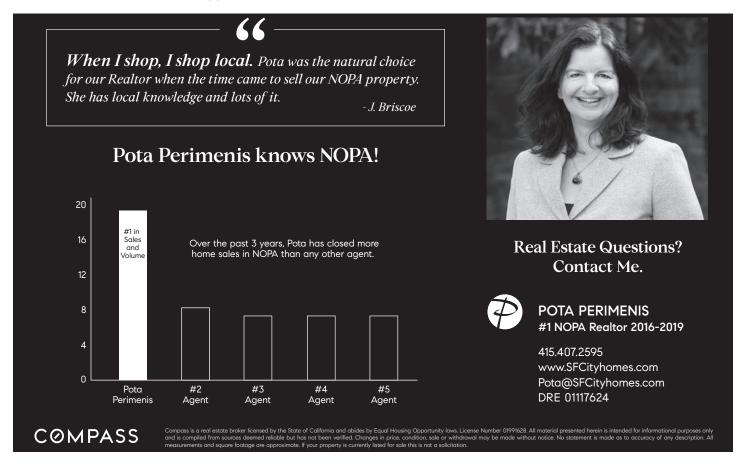
There are many stories behind a person's decision to share their home, and just as many stories behind a person's search for a new home. Whether you need supplemental income to meet mortgage payments, have a spare bedroom, cannot afford rising rental costs or have been displaced, Home Match SF brings the people behind these stories together.

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As a joint program of Covia and Sequoia Living, two Bay Area nonprofits, Home Match SF is a free service, with funding from the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development.

For more information, please call (415) 351-1000, email info@ homematchsf.org, or visit our website at homematchsf.org.





SFPD PROFILE - CAPTAIN ENGLER



PHOTO: Captain Engler. Photo Credit: Shari Stuerenberg

Community. It's a word that many of us hear often, but what does it really mean? For the San Francisco Police Department's Northern Station, "community" defines the backbone of the work that comes with policing one of the most diverse landscapes in the city. The Northern Station's district stretches from the Presidio, to parts of Russian Hill, Polk Gulch, Japantown, and the Western Addition, which includes our neighborhood north of the Panhandle.

Captain Joseph Engler took the reins in January 2018. When reflecting on his first year as captain and looking ahead, he admits his job isn't without challenges, but says that's why keeping community at the heart of the department is key.

Capt. Engler is a fourth generation San Franciscan and third generation SFPD officer. From his days growing up in the Sunset District, to watching his father and grandfather protect the streets, he knows what it takes to make a real connection with the people he and his officers strive to protect. Having been on the force since 1992, Capt. Engler says one of his most important duties is imparting wisdom on the Northern Station's young recruits. "Good mentorship trains my officers to be able to make

empowered decisions and I've found there's nothing better than a force that owns their work," says Engler. One of the initiatives that Capt. Engler is actively working on this year is San Francisco's Healthy Streets Operations Center. It's a city-wide effort for homeless outreach. The SFPD and the city's Department of Emergency Management are teaming up to identify problem areas and direct a unified response to behaviors that make our neighborhoods potentially unhealthy or unsafe. Reflecting on the strategy, Engler offers this analysis: "You can't arrest your way out of a problem. The best bet is to get to the core issue and work to come up with a solution so people feel safe where they live."

All of us here in the NOPA neighborhood — and the larger area that the Northern District serves can lend a helping hand in that effort, too. Officers say the key is for locals to take a picture or video before reporting a problem or incident. If you can see it and show it, they can better tackle the issue; in the case of criminal complaints, it could also be invaluable to future prosecution. "Real community policing is not policing at all. It's about the community and getting everyone involved," according to Capt. Engler. That's the message that he's imparting for 2019.

Shari Stuerenberg has lived in NOPA for 4 years and works at Nopalito. When she isn't working, you'll find her enjoying a tall cup of coffee at Matching Half Cafe.

MICRO HISTORY

THE NOPA VELODROME

San Francisco's first bicycling craze struck in the 1890s. The "safety" bicycle, with equal-size wheels and a chain drive to transfer power from the pedals to the rear wheel made it possible. Pneumatic rubber tires made it a bit more comfortable. The problem of the streets remained, however: cobblestones or unpaved roads, crisscrossed with trolley and cable car tracks. Cyclists became formidable advocates for improved roads, but also resorted to velodromes - indoor cycling arenas for smooth riding without trolley and carriage traffic.

The city had at least four velodromes in the 1890s, one at the corner of Fell and Baker, the site of what's now Mercy Terrace (formerly the Southern Pacific Railway employees' hospital, built in 1909). The North of the Panhandle velodrome existed briefly,

between 1896 and 1899, when it was moved to the Olympic Club's running track in the Inner Sunset.

While it lasted, the bike boom was a great advance for women. In 1896, Susan B. Anthony said, "the bicycle has done more for the emancipation of women than anything else in the world." Bicycling was also derided as unfeminine athleticism and a moral threat because of the scandalously indecent clothing it required, not to mention the unspeakable "stimulation" of a bicycle seat. Bicycling in the 1890s was primarily for the wealthy and upper middle classes. Safety bikes cost \$100-\$150, or about \$2700-\$4000+ today. By the early 1900s, the cycling craze subsided. Bike prices fell, and cycling's image changed from leisure sport to working-class transportation.

"VISION ZERO"



PHOTO: Man and woman with bicycles, ca. 1900. Photo credit: http://opensfhistory.org/Display/ wnp70.0182.jpg

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PRESIDENT. Charles Dupigny, in the neighborhood since 2010 and active board member for over five years. Charles is interested in community advocacy that sustains an eclectic, diverse, and connected community.



VICE PRESIDENT. Julian Mackie started volunteering to give back to the community. Julian's interest lies in using data to improve our neighborhood housing and pedestrian safety. You can catch him exploring San Francisco or enjoying our beautiful parks.



TREASURER. Mike Leeder, in the neighborhood since 2004 and has two boys. In addition, Mike is a Co-Founder of Bytes for Bits, an after school organization teaching grade school kids to code software.



SECRETARY. Leela Gill, a 20+ year resident, enjoys the neighborhood with her two boys and husband. She is active in NOPNA community safety and event planning.



RECORDING SECRETARY. Meg Rahner, has lived in NOPA since she moved to San Francisco from Pennsylvania in 2010. She joined the board to be more active as an advocate for our community. She helps with promotions and event planning, including the annual Block Party! (June 1!)



Jennifer Brandl, in the neighborhood since 2013. Jennifer is passionate about volunteering and being a contribution to communities. She is a driven leader and regularly attends Bay Area networking events, collaborating, and forwarding initiatives.



Jason Cauthen is a San Francisco native who moved to this neighborhood in 2011 with his wife and kids. When not working, commuting, or editing the NOPNA News, Jason enjoys family bike rides in Golden Gate Park



Carmen Chan is a San Francisco native who has lived in the neighborhood for over 8 years. Carmen has been helping build strong relationships between NOPNA and the local business owners we all rely on.



Jeff Dewey and his wife, Megan, have lived in the neighborhood since 2010. Their seven-year-old daughter is a NOPA native. Jeff has been updating the NOPNA website and welcomes any feedback at webstuff@nopna.org.



Tim Hickey and his wife, Leah, have lived in the neighborhood since 2010 and can be seen with their son, Liam, biking, and walking through the area.



Dera-Jill Pozner and her husband have lived around the Panhandle since 1999, including 11 years in the North Panhandle, where she also operates her architecture and design firm.



Noreen Vokić is interested in neighborhood safety and creating a community via social gatherings. She has lived in the neighborhood since 2013 with her husband Dom and their two San Francisco natives.



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Please reach out to us directly for an evaluation on your property. We can share details on our recent sales, the 'robust' Spring marketplace, and how we can work together using COMPASS proprietary tools and branding to ensure maximum exposure and top results in selling your home.

There has never been a better time to sell.



1960 Golden Gate at Lyon

3 BED | 3 BATH | FOR SALE

Rarely found within NOPA's borders, this quaint single-family home's Victorian façade reveals a fabulous recent modern remodel. Spacious open floor plan spanning two levels with approximately 1908 sq. ft. plus expansion plans. A beautiful, large landscaped yard and 1-car parking.

Pricing and photos at 1960goldengate.com.



707 Broderick Street at Fulton

4 BED | 2 BATH | FOR SALE

Magnificent Single Family Home with legal studio on ground level. Stately original details throughout. 4 Bedrooms + large finished attic level. Large garage with abundant storage. Landscaped yard with brick work and planters. Located on Historic Block of 'Broderick Row'.

Pricing and photos at 707broderick.com.



2385 Bush Street

3 BED | 3.5 BATH | SOLD AT \$3,637,000

They say location is everything; just 2 blocks from Fillmore's robust shopping and dining sits this stunning Queen Anne Victorian home. Transcending the ages and offering timeless beauty, the home is an entertainer's dream, showcasing a gorgeous modern remodel, leaving no stone unturned.

2385bushstreet.com

