

NOPNA News

A Publication of the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

2018 : issue 2



5 FULTON: NEW AND IMPROVED

Photo: Joseph Wilinski / Erika Alexander



The 18th Annual NOPA Block Party
Baker between Fulton and Grove
Saturday, June 2nd: 11am-3pm

Email us to get involved at
board@nopna.org



North of
Panhandle
Neighborhood
Association

Connecting the neighborhood to downtown San Francisco for over a century, the 5 Fulton bus line now serves passengers with faster speeds and increased capacity to match the city's rapidly growing population and fast-paced culture.

The changes to the 5 Fulton rolled out over the last four years, culminating with an unusual construction, right in the middle of the neighborhood: a roundabout, fortified with deep cement walls, built at the intersection of Lyon and McAllister Streets. Formerly a four-way stop, the intersection now allows McAllister Street traffic to flow without stopping. Pedestrians, as

ever, must be watchful when entering the crosswalk (signs are posted in case motorists have any doubt that pedestrians have the right of way in crossing at the roundabout). Except for citizen input, this quiet neighborhood intersection might have seen a run-of-the-mill traffic signal. Jodie Medeiros, Executive Director of Walk SF, the pedestrian advocacy group, said her group advocated for the roundabout as an important traffic calming feature and would like them to be used more often. As another way to reduce delays, at Broderick Street, the four-way stop was replaced by a new traffic signal that is held green by the approach of Muni.

(continued on page 4)

FROM THE BOARD

The NOPNA Board recently welcomed three new members. Julian Mackie, Meg Rahner, and Carmen Chan each have demonstrated their commitment to helping the community, and bring fresh ideas and energy to the board. In their own words:

Carmen Chan: I am a San Francisco native who has lived in NOPA for the past 8+ years. I hope to bring my professional experience in client management and operations as well as my passion for local businesses to build a stronger relationship between NOPNA and the local business-owners we all rely on.



Meg Rahner: After volunteering in a variety of ways since moving here in 2010, I decided I wanted to take the next step and be more actively involved in the conversation and to be an advocate for our community, bringing a new perspective. I am looking forward to helping with promotions and event planning — and in particular, looking forward to the June 2nd Block Party!



Julian Mackie: I started volunteering with NOPNA because I wanted to give back to and become more deeply invested in the community. My interest lies in using data to improve our community, particularly housing and pedestrian safety. In my free time you can catch me exploring San Francisco or enjoying our beautiful parks.



LETTERS TO THE BOARD

Thank you for your responses to the last NOPNA News! Good/bad/otherwise — your feedback, praise, criticism, and input helps influence and shape what we focus on and do. Here's some of what we've heard:

I am very pleased to see the emphasis on pedestrian safety and transportation. I work in the transportation field for a national environmental organization, and think very much about making our neighborhood safe enough for my 9 and 11 year old daughters to walk to school alone.

-A.E.

I am just appalled how dirty Divisadero Street is. Cigarette butts, newspapers, cardboard, a mattress, plastic bottles, clothes, eggshells, orange peels, and food containers were some of the sights. Isn't it time to address the filth that plagues Divisadero Street?

-L.P.

Like everyone, I meet the changes underway in this neighborhood with apprehension, excitement and sometimes, anger. I want to find ways to balance advancement with advocacy, affordable housing with productive growth, and encourage engagement between the old-timers and the newcomers.

-D.S.



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.

Contact NOPNA

board@nopna.org

www.nopna.org.

Interested in donating to NOPNA? Check if your employer double your donation with a matching gift! NOPNA is a registered 501c3 organization

THOUGHTS ABOUT FORD GOBIKE'S ROLL-OUT?

Make your voice heard in our online survey -

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JUNE 30th

at

NOPNA.org.

PRESENTING: THE DIVISADERO MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

We're happy to announce that we've recently reinstated the Divisadero Merchants Association. As a group of merchants, we strive to support and represent a growing and changing community by advocating for merchants and neighbors. We represent businesses on Divisadero Street from Haight to Golden Gate and Divisadero-adjacent streets. We welcome and encourage all businesses to participate, please contact us if your business is interested. One of the projects that we have been working on is the Art Walk. We've been so happy to see both merchant and resident neighbors get excited and participate in the Art Walks in a big way. With the leadership of Jessie Flo McDonald, our goal is to produce these events once a quarter. We would love to get even more artists to participate. If you are an artist or musician and would like to know how to get involved or show your work during the Art Walk, please reach out to us.

The 2018 Art Walks have been scheduled on June 21st, October 4th, December 6th.

You can reach the Divisadero Merchants Association at divisaderomERCHANTSdma@gmail.com



Giselle Gyalzen is the owner of Rare Device and is the President of the Divisadero Merchants Association for 2018.

Brenda's MEAT & THREE

SO WHAT'S A MEAT & THREE?
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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOPNA ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

Baker between Fulton and Grove
Saturday, June 2nd, 11am-3pm

NOPNA GENERAL MEETING

Oasis Cafe • 901 Divisadero
Thursday, May 17th, 2018 - 7pm
Thursday, July 19th, 2018 - 7pm
Thursday, Sept 20th, 2018 - 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

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



Contact us:

board@nopna.org or www.nopna.org



PHOTO: The new traffic circle located at the intersection of McAllister and Lyon Streets.

Photo credit: Joseph Wilinski / Erika Alexander

TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS (continued from cover)

A suite of improvements to the 5 Fulton was legislated by the board of directors of the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Authority in 2015, after a two-year planning process. Besides the conversions of four-way stops, other changes were the creation of the 5 Fulton Rapid, making limited stops (see NOPNA News, Sept/Oct 2015); new electric coaches (60-foot long, articulated busses went into service in 2016); increased frequency of service; boarding islands at major stops such as at Divisadero; prioritization of traffic signals for transit; routing the inbound 5 Fulton directly to Market Street via a transit-only lane from Larkin to Market; and removing a few bus stops (e.g., at Lyon and Central). New right-turn pockets and boarding islands at several intersections have shortened

delays by reducing the impact of automotive traffic on bus boarding times.

These changes have also resulted in the removal of some parking spots. Noreen Vokic, who lives on McAllister, relies on street parking, and drives to work in Santa Clara county, says that changes including the new traffic light have made street parking nearly impossible for her. The difficulty has her considering a move out of the city. Other residents who also rely on their cars are displeased by changes to the streets that make parking more challenging or expensive (such as replacing parking spaces with Ford GoBike docking stations, or the expansion of residential parking permits) and have expressed concerns that the new San Francisco lacks a place for them.

Others have been more receptive to the changes overall and appreciate the speedier rides and greater seating capacity. 5 Fulton seems to move faster from Masonic to Market, and riders are more likely to get a seat when they board in NoPa. The promised average speed increase of about 20% has not yet been documented by Muni, though it has reported that the rapid line and increased frequency of service have increased ridership.

Yet more change for the 5 Fulton begins this summer, when its downtown terminus shifts to a street-level bus plaza within the new, \$2.2 billion Transbay Transit Center on Mission Street. The transit center will offer transfers to AC Transit, a rooftop park, and in the distant future, high-speed rail service.

Dale Danley a neighborhood resident since 2001, Dale travels to work daily in Mission Bay, a trip that often begins or ends with the 5 Fulton.

NEW PANHANDLE PLAYGROUND APPROVED AND UNDERWAY



PHOTO: The current Panhandle Playground structure.
Photo credit: Joseph Wilinski / Erika Alexander



IMAGE: Artist rendering of the new Panhandle Playground design

NOPNA parents rejoice! The rumors are true, a new panhandle playground is coming soon.

Today's playground near the intersection of Oak and Ashbury can be generously described as "basic." In fact, in 2014, the playground scored a miserable "D" on the SF Parks Alliance's playground report card. Among other reasons, arsenic-treated wood exists on some of the play structures. As a result, the Panhandle was chosen to be one of 13 San Francisco playgrounds to undergo renovation as part of the SF Parks Alliance's "Let'sPlaySF! Initiative," and progress is very much underway.

After a thorough community input process — with several input sessions coordinated by NOPNA — a new design concept was approved by the city last month and by all accounts, it'll make you wish you were 6 years old again. Big and bright, the new playground will emphasise its natural setting with boulders to climb on, a log structure and plenty of swings and traditional play gear. Ramps abound to run on, which double as ADA-compliant pathways. On top of one little hill will be what are described as "musical and sensory play elements." On an adjacent embankment, "ropes, handholds, rings, a slide, and scramble steps" will give kids a near infinite number of ways to climb and enjoy themselves.

The design even features a sand play area with buried shells and sea creatures to discover. The sand is not without controversy as some neighbors have expressed concern about what else might wind up buried there. Nonetheless, the variety of options at the playground should make kids and parents very happy. It's all organized into age-appropriate sections with a toddler area protected from areas where older kids might rough-house.

The whole project was made possible by a \$2 million Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond and a \$1 million private grant. With design approved, the project is now in the final bidding process to get construction underway. Once all is said and done, we'll be looking at a spring 2019 start with an opening date sometime in the fall of next year.

NEIGHBORS GIVE FEEDBACK TO 400 DIVISADERO DEVELOPERS



IMAGE: Conceptual rendering of 400 Divisadero

On March 19th, the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association (NOPNA) held a joint community meeting with the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association (ASNA) to discuss the proposed 400 Divisadero Street development. The meeting, held at The Independent, was attended by 75 members of the public as well as representatives of Genesis Real Estate Group, the project developers. The chief developer, David Kriozere, and architect, Will Duncan, both spoke in detail about the proposed plan, before the session opened to public for Q&A.

The project, which has been in the works for nearly two years, plans to replace the Touchless Car Wash and Gas Station with mixed-use residential development. The project's proposal is for a six story building (65 feet) containing a total of 177 apartment units (80 studio units, 24 one-bedroom units, and 73 two bedroom units), averaging 570 square feet per unit. According to Kriozere, the decision to design smaller units was to increase the overall units, in hopes of decreasing the rental cost of each unit. However, members of the public expressed concern that these units would not adequately support the families the building aims to attract. The exact number of below market rate (BMR) units are also yet to be determined but the final numbers will be watched closely by members of the community.

The project's proposal would also contain 75 parking spaces, 155 bicycle parking spots, and 8,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space designed to attract smaller, local merchants. Kriozere also cited the firm's desire to reduce car traffic and improve pedestrian safety through design elements such as a designated drop-off area on Oak Street and wider sidewalks at the front of the building.

The project will soon enter the environment review stage, but Genesis Real Estate plans to continue its public outreach through open forums and weekly meet and greets at Madrone (Wednesdays from 5 – 7 p.m.).

Charles Dupigny and Julian Mackie. Julian Mackie has lived in the neighborhood for two years and is one of our newest board members. When he isn't working, he's focused on housing and pedestrian safety. Charles Dupigny is the President of the NOPNA Board and focuses on sustainability and quality of life issues in our neighborhood.



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SAN FRANCISCO DAY SCHOOL EXPANSION PROJECT IN PLANNING



PHOTO: Entrance to San Francisco Day School.

Photo credit: Joseph Wilinski / Erika Alexander

The independent school, San Francisco Day School (SFDS), located on Masonic Avenue at Golden Gate, is moving forward with plans to develop the parcels of land they own, adjacent to the eastern edge of the current campus. The project will replace an empty lot and an unoccupied residential unit with additional instructional and gathering space, as well as renovate an additional, unoccupied residential building for faculty housing.

The Head of School, Dr. Mike Walker, and his staff have engaged the community throughout the planning process, saying that “we know how important it is to be good neighbors.” In neighborhood meetings held at the kindergarten through eighth grade school, two primary concerns surfaced: increased traffic congestion and allowing community members access to the space. Traffic, particularly during morning drop-off, is already an issue for some neighbors and there is fear that the additional 80 students enabled by the expansion could worsen the situation. The SFDS project, like all city projects of this scale, will be subject to an environmental review which will include a transportation impact analysis. Once completed, a report will recommend mitigations and improvements to be incorporated into the final plans. Already the school maintains signage around campus

directing proper drop-off procedures.

Dr. Walker for his part has taken a hands-on approach to traffic issues. Hot tea in hand, the Head of School has done his own informal patrolling of Golden Gate and Central Streets, reminding parents of the drop-off rules when the signs have not been enough.

The new three-story building will include extra classrooms, an art area, an innovation makerspace, a performance space, and a roof garden. With the additional capacity, Dr. Walker hopes to begin offering summer programming to the public. This will not only allow more families in the community to benefit from the space, but could ease the city-wide challenge they face in finding activities for school-age children on summer break. SFDS will also continue to invite partnerships with neighborhood non-profit organizations that seek a place to convene.

Even as they broaden access to their space, the school remains committed to continuing to share its campus during the summer with Breakthrough, a non-profit that helps students with limited educational opportunities attend four-year colleges.

Sam Test Cauthen has lived in Nopa since 2011 with her two sons and husband. She is committed to a diverse and inclusive community.

WELCOME CAPTAIN BAILEY!

We want to welcome our new Park Station Police Captain, Captain Una Bailey, to the neighborhood! We were fortunate to ask her a few questions so we could get to know her better.



PHOTO: Captain Una Bailey of the SFPD.

Please tell us about your history in SFPD

I joined the department in 2001. I trained at Ingleside Station and have since worked at Central, Mission, Tenderloin, Richmond, and Taraval stations. My duties have included patrol, and later Patrol Sergeant, the Special Victims Unit, Homeless Outreach, the Investigative Unit, and Risk Management where I investigated criminal allegations against officers.

In 2016, I was promoted to captain of the Special Victims Unit. In October 2017, I was assigned to Park Station as Commanding Officer.

How did you decide you wanted to be a police officer?

Growing up, I had always been interested in law and order; seeking justice was always important to me. I

believed as a police officer, I could be in a position to make a difference in people's lives with every interaction. I wanted a job where I could listen to people and make a difference by keeping them safe. I also wanted to hold people accountable for their actions, especially in cases where the victim is a child.

What was your greatest experience in SFPD?

In one of my first child abuse investigations, I got a confession from a step-father who had been abusing his step daughter for years. He surrendered himself, pled guilty, and was sentenced to 8 years in prison. I feel like I have had a number of great cases but this one was the most rewarding.

What is a typical day like for you at Park Station?

A typical day is busy, from minute I arrive to the minute I leave! Every day I respond to concerns and emails from the residents. I really appreciate people emailing me because it allows me to keep a finger on the neighborhood pulse and these emails are an indicator as to whether we are being effective. We also spend time addressing crime trends, with a focus on how reduce the crime stats in the area.

Another part of my day involves meeting with community groups. It is only through community collaboration that we will succeed in resolving neighborhood issues and crimes.

What do you want neighbors to know about safety in our area?

My goals are to make the district the safest it can be, to improve the quality of life for all the residents and visitors, and to make it a district where children are kept safe on our streets and in our schools.

If you see a crime in progress, call 911 and report it. We have made numerous arrests recently thanks to 911 calls, especially auto burglaries. Recently we were also able to connect a person caught on a home surveillance camera to an actual burglary that happened up the street with four other burglaries in and around our district.

The community's engagement really makes a difference and we want to thank you for your collaboration and support in helping to make this district the safest it can be.

How do you hope to further engage our community?

Please sign up for our newsletter [email: SFPDParkStation@sfgov.org] and come to our monthly community meetings, the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm. We also host "Coffee with a Cop", announced via our newsletter and twitter, where we encourage community members to meet with us. With this input, I want to bring various agencies, like Park and Rec, District Attorney Office, the City Attorney's Office etc. together to help solve community issues.

Leela Gill has lived in the area for more than 20 years.

WHAT'S IN A (STREET) NAME? PART 2: NORTH/SOUTH

In the previous issue, we shared the origins of the names of the streets that run East/West in our neighborhood. This second installment will focus on the North/South streets.

Contrary to online sources, El Divisadero wasn't the Spanish name for Lone Mountain and doesn't mean tall summit. The best guess is that the name derives from the fact that **Divisadero** was once SF's western boundary, separating it from the Presidio.

David **Broderick**, California and US Senator, and corrupt SF political boss in the 1850s, is best remembered for losing a fatal duel at Lake Merced with California Chief Justice David Terry. Terry ran for re-election as Chief Justice on a pro-slavery platform and lost. He held Broderick, a member of the Free Soil Party (a political party that opposed slavery in the Western territories), responsible — thus, the duel.

MICRO HISTORY



PHOTO: David Broderick, who campaigned against extending slavery into California in the mid-19th century.

SOURCE: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME? (continued)

Edward Dickinson **Baker**, lawyer, congressman, and friend of President Abraham Lincoln, campaigned to keep California in the Union and organized its first Union infantry regiment. He was killed in 1861 while serving in the regiment and also as a US senator from Oregon, the only sitting senator to be killed at war. He's buried in the Presidio.

Nathaniel **Lyon** was the first Union general killed in the Civil War. His participation in the 1850 Bloody Island Massacre of between 60 and 200 Pomos — old men, women, and children — could be a reason to change the name of the street.

The Masonic cemetery was originally located to the west of the street, between Fulton and Turk streets.

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

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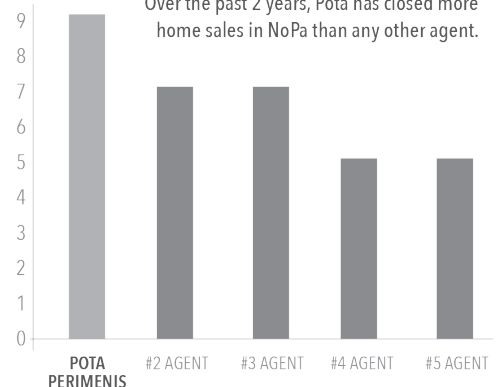
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