

# The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

Volume 20 Number 4

Visit us at: [metna.org](http://metna.org)

August 2020

## METNA TURNS 20 YEARS OLD IN OCTOBER

On Tuesday, October 3, 2000 the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association (METNA) was officially established by a coalition of neighborhood residents. Formed to meet the growing needs of a neighborhood that was about to double in population with the construction of OceanView Village and the need to address safety and quality of life issues in a diverse neighborhood of 256 mostly single family homes, METNA was established.

Twenty years later, four of the nine founding members, Marc Christensen, Glen Hatakeyama, Steve Heide, and Dwayne Price still live in the neighborhood. The METNA News has chronicled the work of METNA and issues relating to the community in our corner of San Francisco.

Over the past twenty years METNA has worked with city, regional and state agencies to beautify and bring safety improvements to our greater neighborhood and its surroundings. Beginning in 2000 METNA was involved with the creation of the St. Charles Pathway on both sides of Brotherhood Way, a sidewalk on Arch between Brotherhood and Alemany and a major renovation of the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt. From those early days until now METNA has been involved with no less than twenty-five major projects in the neighborhood, including: the creation of Residential Parking Permit Zone CC (August, 2003); the Brotherhood Way Dog Park (December, 2004); Renovation of the Head Street Stairs (January, 2005); Renovation of the St. Charles Bridge with new sidewalks, fencing, and improved lighting (April, 2006); an additional right turn lane and signal at San Jose, Plymouth, and Sagamore (March, 2007); new sewer lines throughout the Merced Extension Triangle (March, 2008); St. Charles Bridge art project (May, 2012); Hydrostatic testing of PG&E's gas line #109 in the MET (October, 2013, and August, 2016); Repaving of Alemany Blvd. (May, 2014); New Muni lines with stops in the MET with the 57-Parkmerced to Daly City BART; (September, 2015), and the 28R-19<sup>th</sup> Avenue stop at Arch and Alemany (April, 2016); the repaving of Panama Street (April, 2014) and upper Head Street (November, 2016); the establishment of Sisterhood Gardens (April, 2016); a safety K-rail along I-280/John Daly Blvd. exit (June, 2016); Interactive Speed Radar signs, on Alemany (July, 2016), and on Brotherhood (February, 2020); Tunnel lighting on Brotherhood Way (March, 2017); continued new sidewalks installed: Niantic Avenue (January, 2014), Brotherhood Way, from Thomas More Way to St. Charles Ave. (November, 2015); Lake Merced Blvd., from Lake Merced Hill to Brotherhood Way (December, 2018), and Brotherhood Way, from Lake Merced Blvd. to Church Access Road (March, 2019).

There have been ongoing issues with traffic calming measures along Alemany Blvd. and Brotherhood Way, discussions on air and soil monitoring of the Parkmerced build-out, maintaining and securing new retail merchants at OceanView Village, continued maintenance of the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt, Dog Park, and surrounding open space, and the community support to save the Brotherhood Way Pedestrian Bridge.

METNA has been responsible for the formation of two very important neighborhood programs: Resilient MET (May, 2015) and the MET Community Connectors (November, 2017). Every one of the above projects METNA had a direct hand in playing an advocating role and/or planning role in the project. We wish to thank all our elected officials and agency partners who made these projects possible.

**METNA's Mission Statement:** *The purpose of this association shall be to establish neighborhood pride by promoting a safe and clean neighborhood, while improving the quality of life issues in a multi-ethnic and culturally diverse neighborhood.*

Our mission and goals have not changed in our 20 years. METNA is very proud of the many accomplishments to provide quality improvements to our community. We look forward to continuing our important neighborhood work with your support. Please consider joining us in our effort.

### The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

Volume 1, Number 1 November 2000

## Neighborhood Association Formed

### Election of Officers at Next Meeting

On Tuesday, October 3, 2000, the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association (METNA) was officially established by a coalition of neighborhood residents, who met at the Word of God Church to pass the Constitution and By-laws drafted by an ad-hoc committee. The "Neighborhood" is defined as "bounded by Brotherhood Way to the North, Junipero Serra Boulevard to the West, Interstate 280 to the South, and Bright Street to the East."

Meetings will be held four times annually, on the second (2nd) Tuesday of February, May, August, and November. The next meeting is November 14. Dates in 2001 are February 13, May 8, August 14, and November 13.

The feeling of the nearly three-dozen neighbors present was that the neighborhood is about to undergo an enormous physical upheaval because of the massive OceanView Village condominium/shopping complex.

While the long-term implications of the project are profound, the reality has already begun. Streets are being torn up, and trucks, trailers, cranes, and other construction vehicles increasingly block our turns and cause delays. This kind of construction activity will go on for at least another year, while the neighborhood also begins adjusting to the problems caused by a 130% population increase.

We felt that if the neighborhood is to have any say on how to make the best of the situation, the time to act is now. Our year-long fight against the scale of the OceanView Village project brought us together as the 3995 Alemany Neighborhood Committee; more than 150 neighbors eventually helped in that battle in one way or another.

Though we were not able to significantly reduce the size of the complex (the fix was already too far in by the time we arrived), we did get some concessions. Notably, the number of units were reduced from 410 to 370, and the development

Next meeting:  
7 pm, Tuesday, Nov. 14  
Word of God Church  
640 Palmetto Ave.

Think Globally,  
Act Locally

Why do we need METNA? Take a look at the map. The boundaries of the Merced Extension Triangle, our neighborhood, are not arbitrary. There are about 275 largely single-family homes locked inside all but unpenetrable stretches of concrete, with one way in and out to the North, the BART Station and Junipero Serra to the West.

With a current population of perhaps 600, problems with parking, traffic congestion, and getting in and out of the neighborhood have seldom been issues. That's about to change. As a result of

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 4)

The first METNA NEWS

November 2000

## JOIN METNA

Send \$20 check made out to  
METNA to Rich Zerga, 1095  
Clayton St., SF, CA 94117

### METNA MEETING

THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED METNA  
MEETING ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 11,  
2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED

The next meeting will be announced in the  
November 2020 newsletter when it is safe  
to meet in large groups

## PACKAGE THEFT PREVENTION GUIDE

Package thefts of items left on doorsteps by all delivery services have been on the increase in recent years in communities all over the country. Our neighborhood is no exception. METNA presents a SF-SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone) prevention guide that should be useful for all residents. Guidelines differ from residence to residence, and circumstances related to each delivery:

**WON'T BE HOME?** Use the "hold package" option, available with some carriers, with pick up held at a certain location. You can also arrange for a trusted neighbor to pick up any packages that might be delivered.

**USE SPECIAL SERVICES:** USPS and others have *Signature Confirmation* or *Registered mail* to add a layer of security.

**REQUEST NONDISCRIPT PACKAGING:** When completing your online order, opt for packaging that conceals the item or select the "gift" option to ensure the package arrives in a plain box, especially when ordering from high end stores.

**NETWORK WITH NEIGHBORS:** Neighborhood groups on social media or community apps can provide a system for reporting suspicious activity, such as a *Neighborhood Watch* block. This is also a good way to keep your deliveries and surrounding areas secure. A similar program could be implemented on each floor at each building at OceanView Village.

**PORCH AREA VISIBILITY:** Keep the porch area clear and visible, if possible. The more likely a would-be thief is to be seen, the more likely they are to choose another target.

**CUSTOMIZE DELIVERIES:** Add specific delivery instructions using the delivery service protocols and tracking numbers. You can be contacted when the package arrives, or you can schedule packages to arrive when you are home, or you can reroute packages to a safe location.

**DELIVER TO SECURE LOCATIONS:** Send packages to secure locations, Amazon Lockers, FedEx, DHL, and UPS locations, Post Office Boxes, and/or your local post office.

**USE MODERN ALTERNATIVES:** Take advantage of contemporary options, such as smart lockers, lockboxes, cameras, motion detection systems and lighting, and alarms systems.

## GENERAL ELECTION: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> VOTING BY MAIL/RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR LOCAL CANDIDATES

In May, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order requiring county election officials to mail a ballot to every registered voter in their county for the November General Election. The mail-in ballots have prepaid postage. There will also be a minimum number of polling places in San Francisco. The Department of Elections has yet to make a determination where these polling places will be.

The General Election is on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. National and statewide candidates and propositions do not have ranked choice voting. However, since 2004 San Francisco has used ranked-choice voting for local candidates. The new ballot format allows voters to rank up to a maximum of 10 candidates in a ranked-choice voting contest.

To rank candidates, fill in the oval in each column, in the order you wish to rank candidates, with column 1 being your first choice, column 2 your second choice, column 3 your third choice, etc. You may rank as many candidates as you wish (up to 10, if 10 or more are running for the office). If you do not wish to rank some candidates, then leave the columns blank. Make sure not to fill in more than one oval in each column because if you do, then those candidates will be invalid. Also, ranking the same candidate more than once will not help that candidate since your vote will be counted only once for that candidate.

If a candidate for an office receives a majority (50% + 1) of first choice votes, then that candidate wins. If no candidate receives the majority, then counting goes to round 2, where the last place candidate is eliminated and voters who chose that candidate now have their vote counted for their next choice. This process continues for each round, with the last place candidate in that round again eliminated. As long as your top candidate is not last, your top candidate remains and is always counted in subsequent rounds,

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### METNA MEETING SCHEDULE

7:00pm at the Palmetto Meeting Hall @640 Palmetto Avenue (between St. Charles & Chester):  
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 **Cancelled**  
Tuesday, November 10, 2020

### MET COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

On site Always Active Senior Classes: Cancelled until further notice. Daily on-line classes, on a variety of topics, go to: [www.sfcommunityliving.org](http://www.sfcommunityliving.org) or call in by phone: 888-475-4499

### SISTERHOOD GARDENS

Located @ north-east corner of Brotherhood Way and Arch St. Garden remains open for individuals to garden  
Build Days - volunteers with social distancing,  
10:00am-1:00pm  
Saturday, August 15, 2020  
Saturday, September 19, 2020  
Saturday, October 17, 2020

**SPECIAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES** during the coronavirus pandemic go to: [metna.org](http://metna.org)

until a candidate receives a majority.

For more information on voting, as well as registration information, contact the San Francisco Department of Elections at 415-554-4375 (TTY 415-554-4386), and for Chinese at 415-554-4367, Espanol at 415-554-4366, Filipino at 415-554-4310, or at [www.sfelections.org](http://www.sfelections.org), e-mail at [SFVote@sfgov.org](mailto:SFVote@sfgov.org).

## METNA OFFICERS

President  
Glen Hatakeyama  
207 Chester Ave.  
415 333-0197  
[ragtime217@gmail.com](mailto:ragtime217@gmail.com)

Secretary  
Eric Berquist  
233 Chester Ave.  
415 939-2377  
[ericafton@gmail.com](mailto:ericafton@gmail.com)

Sergeant at Arms  
Glenn Rogers  
3425 Alemany Blvd.  
408 838-9308

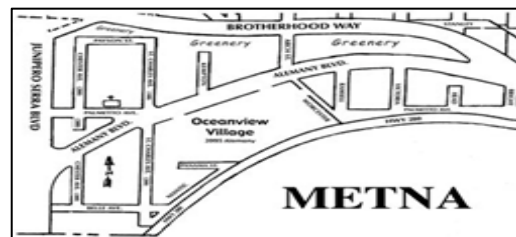
Vice President  
Marc Christensen  
60 Kempton Ave.  
415 585-2465  
[christensen.marc@metna@gmail.com](mailto:christensen.marc@metna@gmail.com)

Treasurer  
Richard Zerga  
1095 Clayton St.  
SF 94117  
[rjz1@comcast.net](mailto:rjz1@comcast.net)

Neighborhood Improvement  
Steve Heide  
306 St. Charles Ave.  
650 991-0463

### Executive Committee

Sue Harless	Celia Herman	Neil Hunt
79 Kempton Ave	221 Chester Ave	239 St. Charles
415 347-7361	415 559-2753	415 308-3486



## CONSTRUCTION AT HMART BACK ON AFTER ONE MONTH SHUTDOWN

New public health orders in six Bay Area counties were issued in late April allowing construction work to resume as of May 4, providing that “ample space for social distancing” remain, and involve “brief and infrequent interactions between people.”

Work at OceanView Village (OVV) restarted on May 12th. Construction workers, electricians, and plumbers, crucial to the reconstruction of the 48,000 sq.ft. grocery space, storage and loading dock, were allowed back to work.

According to Sam Kim, Executive Director of Hmart, approximately 50% of the reconstruction is now complete. No opening date is yet projected, as the project is approximately one year behind the original anticipated opening date.

## BLOCK CAPTAIN VOLUNTEERS

The Resilient MET has recruited 11 potential Block Captains—Eric Berquist, Neil Hunt, Ronald Limcaco, Eric Nadler, Romeo Perez, Glenn Rogers, Bill Russell, Sue Harless, Monika Hachiya, Evelyn Lee, and James Kuhn to help the MET recover in case of a catastrophic event.

Under the guidance of Dan Homsey of the Neighborhood Empowerment Network, the next step is to order emergency supplies and begin operational training. Block Captains create ways for neighbors to meet each other and build connections; inventory who and what is on their block and create a block center with emergency supplies to support the neighbors. We look forward to working with them.

## PG&E's PUBLIC SAFETY SHUTOFF PLAN

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has been warning customers about their Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). PG&E's plan is to turn off electricity if extreme fire danger conditions threaten portions of their electrical network. PG&E states, “We continue to learn from past PSPS events, and we are committed to improving.”

Several changes to reduce the length of outages and those persons impacted by a PSPS are being implemented. The electricity grid is being modified and updated to redirect electricity so that “fewer communities (will) lose power during severe weather.” More field crews are being added “to inspect lines and restore power as soon as possible.” Additionally, PG&E is improving their weather technology to zero in on weather conditions that “could lead to a PSPS event.”

PG&E's goal is to send outage alerts to affected customers more quickly than in the past. To help prepare for public safety outages, PG&E wants customers to update their contact information at [pge.com/mywildfirealerts](http://pge.com/mywildfirealerts), or by calling 866-743-6589.

Meanwhile, restock emergency kits with flashlights, new batteries, and first aid supplies. Also, make sure you have an ice chest, with ice on hand from a freezer (prior to the shutoff), to anticipate a power outage. Plan for all medical needs prior to a possible interruption of electricity, that can occur at any time. More information is available at [pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety), or [prepareforpowerdown.com](http://prepareforpowerdown.com), and at [pge.com/medicalbaseline](http://pge.com/medicalbaseline).

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

During the coronavirus pandemic go to  
**[metna.org](http://metna.org)**

## NOMINATION OF METNA OFFICERS FOR 2021-23

Nominations for METNA officers for the 2021-23 term will take place in August. With the August 2020 METNA neighborhood meeting cancelled, nominations will take place by phone. Names of candidates may be submitted from now until prior to August 11, to vice-president Marc Christensen, per METNA by-laws.

Offices open for nominations are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms. METNA by-laws (Article 5, Sec. 1) states, “Officers shall serve two years and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms in the same position, with the exception of the treasurer.” Therefore, in the upcoming November election the offices of secretary and sergeant-at-arms must be vacated.

Any current METNA member who lives or owns property within the Merced Extension Triangle, or a business member within the MET, who is in good standing, can be nominated for any office.

Names of nominated individuals for each office will appear in the November, 2020 METNA News. Ballots for current METNA members will be placed in the November newsletter and must be returned to vice president Marc Christensen by Tuesday, November 10 to be officially counted.

## CENSUS 2020 CONTINUES—HAVE YOU BEEN COUNTED?

The decennial federal census continues. The 2020 census moved swiftly despite the COVID-19 pandemic. By April 19, the response rate reached 50%, and then hit 60% by Memorial Day.

Census bureau director stated in June that, “We are still pushing to have as many households respond on line, by phone or by mail.” Beginning in early August, census workers must visit millions of non-responding households. That process will continue through October. Census workers will be equipped with masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer, as they visit homes that have not yet been counted.

The printed census forms are available on line. Go to: [Californiacensus.org](http://Californiacensus.org), if you have not yet been counted. Assistance guides are available in 59 non-English languages. Having everyone counted is important to form legislative districts and provide much needed funds and services. It is important that everyone is counted.

## PROPOSAL FOR RETAINING THE BROTHERHOOD WAY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

In April, Parkmerced Developers, in consultation with SF Public Works, SFMTA, and the Office of Economic and Workforce Development came up with six possible options regarding the Brotherhood Way Pedestrian Bridge in response to community concerns to retain the bridge.

The options submitted to the community were first given to METNA, the Summit 800 HOA, as well as the schools along Brotherhood Way for their review. The option chosen by the vast majority of stakeholders was Option 2B which is to retain the current bridge while also providing an at grade crossing with a pedestrian signal and bulb outs. In that option the bridge would remain and the north side support column would be relocated 17 feet to the north to provide visual clearance for vehicles

**cont'd on page 4**



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

### THE INTERSECTION AT ALEMANY, ST. CHARLES & PALMETTO

For the second time this year a "side show," where cars and crowds gather to watch cars spin around in a roadway, occurred at the intersection of Alemany, St. Charles, and Palmetto. This second incident occurred at approximately 11:00 pm on the night of Sunday, May 10, with well over 150 spectators driving into the area, double parking, blocking the roadway on all corners.

This dangerous act of illegal behavior has now taken place in the intersection for the second time in four months. San Francisco police officers arrived after numerous calls to 911 and to the Taraval Police station. The activity lasted approximately 10-15 minutes before the police arrived. Tire tracks left by the spinning cars covered the entire intersection and damaged the painted crosswalks in several locations.

METNA, along with neighbors, are strongly suggesting a video camera be placed high on the light pole on the median strip on the west side of the intersection facing east, that will capture not only any illegal activity but also monitor accidents that may occur in the intersection, especially any accident that involves a pedestrian or bicyclist. This is a major crosswalk for pedestrians and cyclists traveling to and from BART, as well as residents crossing the busy intersection to mail a letter in the neighborhood's only mail box. A sign indicating "This intersection is under video surveillance," is also suggested as a possible deterrent.

### Pedestrian bridge from page 3

heading westbound on Brotherhood to see vehicles at the new Chumasero intersection. The north-side sidewalk leading to the current bridge would have 5% slope grade, rather than the current 9% slope.

There is also an option for staircases to be added at the sidewalk entrances on the north and south side of the bridge at Brotherhood Way. That optional addition is being considered, if feasible, and would greatly reduce the crossing distance using the bridge.

There were several options to retain to current pedestrian bridge, with various Chumasero alignments, as well as several options to remove the current bridge and build a new pedestrian bridge. Those options were rejected due to a number of factors, including a new realignment and grades, the down time without a bridge, and projected costs.

Currently, the various agencies are looking at and evaluating the preferred option.

### DIRE NEWS FOR NOW ON RETAIL BUSINESSES AT OVV

Several businesses at OceanView Village have closed since the Covid-19 pandemic began.

24-Hour Fitness closed its doors in March, by order of the Public Health Dept., as a non-essential business. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 24-Hour Fitness announced the closing of 114 locations of their 440 sites in 14 states, as they filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The OVV location closed permanently. Hertz at OVV closed its doors in late April. They also are in bankruptcy protection as they attempt to restructure. There is no indication whether or not they will reopen. Chase Bank temporarily closed in early May, leaving only their alcove ATMs open for limited banking needs.

Subway and Extreme Pizza have remained open with take out and delivery only. Construction continues at the Hmart supermarket location. No date has been set for their grand opening.

Over the past three and a half years, since Broe/Citivist have owned the retail complex, four businesses—Alemany Dental, HM Global Express, Hertz, and 24-Hour Fitness—have closed, and not one new tenant has moved in. Hmart is on a sub-lease with Safeway-Albertsons, and the former Walgreens site remains vacant.

METNA officers, Glen Hatakeyama and Marc Christensen, met with Citivist COO in early July to discuss the shopping center's future. The discussion was positive for leasing spaces, once Hmart opens, hopefully in the next six months.

### PGA CHAMPIONSHIP AT HARDING PARK

The PGA of America has announced that the PGA Championship originally scheduled for May will be held August 6-9 at T.P.C. Harding Park without spectators.

## LACK OF RAINFALL THIS PAST SEASON

February, 2020 went down as the driest February on record in San Francisco, tying the year 1864 (156 years ago) with no measurable precipitation, according to the National Weather Service. As was the case in the Merced Extension Triangle (MET) the last measurable rainfall had been January 25, with 0.4 inches, and a trace on January 28, until rain fell again on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Month by month the rainfall in the MET showed 0.3 inches in September, no measurable rain in October, 1.3 inches in November (November 26 & 27), 6.3 inches in December, with only 3.7 inches in January, and then no rain in February. The first measurable rainfall in March was March 8<sup>th</sup>, with 0.3 inches. That ended a record 39 days without rainfall during the winter season. Total rainfall in March was 2.6 inches. April (4-7) had 1.1 inches, which meant that from January 25 to April 30, only 3.7 inches of rain fell in the area. May saw 0.8 inches, bringing the seasonal total to 16.4 inches, but only 4.5 inches since January 25. No measurable rainfall fell in June.

## METNA REMINDER

### FACE MASKS A MUST IN SAN FRANCISCO

On May 30, new face mask covering rules went into effect in San Francisco and the State. Prior to May 30<sup>th</sup> wearing a mask was recommended.

Dr. Thomas Aragon, San Francisco Health Officer, and the San Francisco Health Department under Dr. Grant Colfax issued a mandate in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This edict is part of the overall regulations that go along with sheltering in place, social distancing when outside, as well as frequent hand washing. Wearing a nitrile-type disposable glove, though not mandatory, is also recommended.

The public policy is, you must wear a face mask when you are:

- \*waiting in line or shopping at a store
- \*waiting for or on public transportation
- \*in a taxi or ride share vehicle
- \*working at a job that interacts with people
- \*walking outside if you see someone within 30 feet of you

\*entering any public building

You are not required to wear a mask when:

- \*you are at home
- \*in your car alone or with a member of your family
- \*sitting or standing with people you live with
- \*exercising outdoors alone or with people you live with

In all cases when you leave your home you should have a facemask. It should be readily accessible and easy to put one when you are walking or exercising. Again you should put your facemask on when you are within 30 feet of any other person.

Respiratory particles in the air is the most prevalent way to spread the coronavirus from person to person. Wearing a face mask is the best way to protect each other when social distancing is not always possible.