

# The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

Special Edition

April 2021

## HMART EXPECTED TO OPEN AT OCEANVIEW VILLAGE ON APRIL 21st

The long anticipated opening of Hmart at OceanView Village (OVV) is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

The site at OVV has been closed for almost 8 years (September, 2013), when Oceanview Supermarket closed. The lease at the site is held by Safeway/Albertsons at least until 2027, with Hmart as the sub-lessee. It remains to be seen what will transpire in six years when the original 25-year lease expires. Both parties, as well as the retail ownership of OceanView Village, have a vested interest to keep Hmart at the site beyond 2027.

Hmart has spent almost two years (since May, 2019) renovating the 47,108 sq. ft. site, and the last year under the Covid-19 pandemic, to bring a state-of-the-art supermarket to the Merced Extension Triangle and greater Ocean View-Merced Heights-Ingleside neighborhoods. The opening will certainly bring many customers from a wide area of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties. Hmart will ensure that a wide geographic area will have access to fresh, healthy and affordable foods and grocery goods for members of the community. A food court which is labeled with outside signage will be known as "K-town Food Hall," and will be located at the west end of the supermarket.

METNA president, Marc Christensen states, "It is a distinct privilege to welcome Hmart into our neighborhood. May their success be the success of the greater region as we look forward to a state-of-the-art supermarket for the community."

Back in 1988 when it was announced that Hmart had signed a sub-lease at OceanView Village, Mayor London Breed stated, "Every neighborhood in San Francisco should have access to healthy, high quality foods. City and community leaders worked together to fill this vacant storefront, and I am excited that residents in the Ocean View-Merced Heights area will now have a neighborhood grocery store." At the same time, then District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee stated, "The loss of a supermarket in OceanView Village left a noticeable void in the neighborhood for many years. That is why I am excited to see that Hmart, a supermarket providing diverse, high quality foods, decided to lease this location."

Now, current District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar is pleased that the Merced Extension Triangle and greater surrounding communities are getting a top quality supermarket. She states, "As a neighbor, I am super excited to have Hmart nearby so that my family can have access to the wonderful offerings. As District 7 Supervisor, I am grateful for the jobs, economic activity, and improvements Hmart will bring to OceanView Village and the Merced Extension Triangle neighborhood. Food is so interwoven with home, love, culture and I am so glad that we can add Hmart to this part of the District that has so few options for grocery shopping. I wish them much success."

District 11 Supervisor, Ahsha Safai recently stated, "We are excited for Hmart to finally open at OceanView Village. While negotiations with the City began in



2018, it has been a long process to approve this project. The OMI neighborhood is very much in need of an accessible grocery store, not to mention employment opportunities, and Hmart has committed to signing a long-term lease to serve this community for many years."

METNA wishes to thank our elected officials for supporting the opening of Hmart. The Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, under the leadership of Joaquin Torres, and his team, played a vital role during the entire formation process. Joaquin Torres has recently moved on to become the City's Assessor/Recorder, as Carmen Chu vacated that position to become the City Administrator.

During the opening, as the Covid-19 pandemic continues, customers must follow all public health directives, including but not limited to, wearing a face mask, staying 6 feet apart from other persons as much as possible, with the suggestion to wear disposable gloves when handling food.

Supermarket hours have yet to be determined.

Finally, we say to everyone, enjoy your supermarket.

## DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF HMART AT OVV

The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) has been working to maintain safe and healthy construction sites by reducing the spread of Covid-19 during this public health crisis. DBI, the Department of Public Health, and Cal OSHA, have been working with the COVID Compliance Officer to monitor and update Construction Project Safety Protocols at all sites, including Hmart at OceanView Village (OVV), which is considered a large construction site (over 20,000 sq. ft. of floor area).

The Health Order has 99 pages of Construction Safety Protocols which was updated on January 20, 2021. As a result of the stringent Health Officer Order (No. C19-07s) work has continued at the Hmart site. There is a Covid-19 Safety Compliance Officer (SCO) on site at all times during construction activities, according to the DBI website.

## PARKING REGULATIONS AT OCEANVIEW VILLAGE RETAIL

Strict parking regulations will be enforced at OceanView Village in the retail parking lot. Currently a 3-hour parking limit is in force. Discussions will take place soon among the retail entities whether or not to keep the limit at 3 hours, or reduce it to 2 hours, to keep parking spaces available. Three aisles are designated for "Hmart Supermarket customers only." There needs to be a turnover in the parking lot so that customers at all retail stores have a chance to find parking. Note that several parking stalls have a 30-minute time limit, in and around Chase Bank.

Residents at OceanView Village are not allowed to park in the retail parking lot at any time. Those vehicles exceeding the time limit will be towed at the owners expense.

Street parking in and around OceanView Village is limited to 2-hours, Monday thru Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm unless residents have purchased a Zone Residential Parking Permit. The turnover of street parking is crucial to a successful experience for residents and shoppers alike.

## SHOPPING CARTS ARE LIMITED TO THE SUPERMARKET & PARKING LOT

As has been the case with the previous two supermarkets (Albertsons & Oceanview Supermarket), shopping carts are not to be removed from the retail parking lot for any reason. Merced Extension Triangle residents and persons living at OceanView Village should not remove shopping carts from the designated parking area.

Removal of shopping carts for customer's own ease has several unintended consequences. First, it removes vital carts from remaining in circulation to be used by shoppers. Secondly, it clutters areas in the neighborhood and at OVV where carts remain out of service. Thirdly, it is very costly to find and return carts to the supermarket, and when lost or stolen, a costly added expense for Hmart.

Please do not remove carts from the designated area. The "H" in Hmart stands for Han Ah Reum, which translates to "one full arm of groceries." If you purchase more than one full arm and plan to walk to the supermarket, please consider using your own shopping cart or having someone join you to help carry your groceries, or arrange for more than one trip from the supermarket to your front door. Please be courteous and respectful of your shopping experience, so that everyone benefits from your good deed. Your neighbors will be watching.



Aerial view of the MET

February 1947

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## REPAVING AND CURB RAMPS ON ALEMANY BLVD.

In January, Public Works finished repaving 28 blocks of Alemany Boulevard north-east of the MET, from Congdon Street to Seneca Avenue. The Transportation Authority supported the project with \$1.75 million in Prop K half-cent sales tax funds, matching a \$1.75 million SB1 Local Partnership Grant. The year-and-a-half project, begun in June, 2019, included sewer replacement, 44 new curb ramps, and partial new sidewalks.

Also, in the MET, new curb ramps were placed at the median of Alemany and St. Charles, and at all four corners, plus at Alemany and Chester. Further sidewalk work and curb cuts will be upgraded where PG&E has just completed gas line replacement. This work includes the intersections of Palmetto and Chester, and Chester and Payson. Those streets will also be paved from curb to curb, or in a few instances where PG&E replaced the gas lines.

## JOIN METNA

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