

The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

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Visit us at: metna.org

August 2024

SFMTA AND METNA AT ODDS OVER BIKE SHARE STATION LOCATION

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has pushed for a for-profit Bike Share Station near the south-east corner of St. Charles and Alemany. METNA has proposed four alternate locations in the neighborhood, with the number one choice on the Brotherhood Way greenbelt, just north and adjacent to the sidewalk on the north-east corner of Alemany and Arch.

A petition signed by 154 neighborhood residents, including all but one household on the 200 block of St. Charles, oppose the St. Charles Bike Share Station. There is already one Bike Share Station two blocks south at the Daly City BART Station. The reasons are numerous, but not limited to: (a) three crucial parking spaces (up to 37 feet) will be eliminated on the east side of St. Charles. There are four days of street sweeping within one block of the proposed site (up to 8 times a month) for up to two hours to find alternate parking; (b) with the new California State "Daylighting Law" now in effect, the St. Charles-Alemany intersection will lose at least three or four additional parking spaces when marked by SFMTA in the coming months. Parking is already at a premium in the immediate area, especially with two "Two Hour Residential parking Zones B and CC;" (c) St. Charles is a narrow two-way street (29'8", with the 54-Felton Muni bus line running southbound on St. Charles. Traffic often backs up at this exact area on St. Charles when traffic is moving in both directions. Monday mornings are especially difficult when two Recology refuse trucks pick up trash receptacles as they traverse the long 200 block of St. Charles, sometimes taking up to 20 minutes before leaving the block. Traffic in both directions is unable to pass; (d) Many vehicles travel in excess of the posted 25 mph speed limit to avoid backups when clear, similar to speeds on Alemany Blvd. (e) At the exact location of the proposed Bike Share Station are several PG&E underground gas vaults that are continuously monitored. At the site

well as shut-off valves on the sidewalk and one in the center of the street. Periodically PG&E trucks need to park at that exact location with "No Parking" signs temporarily placed so that work crew can monitor the site. This is a safety issue. Adjacent to this location also sits Gas Transmission Line #109, a few feet away on Alemany Blvd., passing across St. Charles. (f) The intersection of St. Charles and Alemany is considered a "high accident-injury" location by SFCTA and SFMTA and is currently being carefully looked at by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority in a multi-year long study. The 4-way stop sign intersection sees numerous vehicles failing to stop, every five to ten minutes, throughout the day and evening, in both directions. A community working group is in the early phases of studying and evaluating with SFCTA to identify safety features to improve the intersection. A final report will be issued in 2025. It makes no sense to install a Bike Share Station at this intersection while a study is under way.

As part of SFCTA's Brotherhood Way/St. Charles Avenue Safety and Circulation Plan, they released a high injury map of major reported collisions from Spring 2018 to Spring 2023, showing five. Two were vehicle only accidents, two were vehicle/pedestrian accidents and one was a vehicle/bicycle accident. During the same period, the Alemany-Arch intersection showed four accidents, none of which had severe injuries (or other visible injuries), and none involving a bicycle. Just recently this past July 7th and 9th, there have been two additional vehicle only accidents at the Alemany-Arch intersection, one an injury related accident. Both were beyond the proposed bike share station location.

The Alemany-Arch site, on land owned by SF Public Works, and approved by the Director of Public Works, allows for a concrete pad to be laid for the potential bike share station. The site is visible to OceanView Village and is closer to five of the seven retail sites at OVV. There is a signal and pedestrian crossing signal at the intersection. It does not

remove any parking spaces from the neighborhood. It also is right at the intersection of three SFMTA Muni bus line stops, in both directions for the 54, 57, and 58 buses. Two District 7 Supervisor Legislative aides have visited the site, and have also given their preliminary approval.

METNA believes the Alemany-Arch site is a win-win situation for SFMTA's Bike Share Program and for the residents who wish to use the program. METNA waits for SFMTA's response.

**METNA NEIGHBORHOOD
BLOCK PARTY SATURDAY,
AUGUST 17, 11:00am-2:00pm**

See information on page 4.

METNA MEETING

Tuesday, August 13, 2024
7:00 pm at Palmetto Meeting Hall
640 Palmetto Avenue
(between St. Charles and Chester)

Invited Guests

Adrienne Bechelli, Deputy Director
Division of Emergency Services
Dept. of Emergency Management
San Francisco

Hope Kaye, Director
Office of Emergency Services
San Francisco State University

Myrna Melgar, D7 Supervisor
Emma Heiken, Legislative Aide
S.F. Board of Supervisors

Brien Hoo, Captain
Taraval Station
San Francisco Police Department

Alex Anderman, Exec. Mgr.
Maricor Julaton, Mgr.
7 Leaves Café

ALL NEIGHBORS WELCOME

Face masks Available Upon Request

STREET SAFETY / PARK SAFETY

METNA wants all pedestrians to be safe on San Francisco streets. Here are safety tips to make walking safe as we continue to embrace Vision Zero:

- When crossing a street, be patient. Stop! Watch out for oncoming vehicles that you may not see or that may not see you.
- Always stop on the curb of a pedestrian walkway. Cross at controlled intersections or marked pedestrian crosswalks whenever possible.
- Many crossing intersections now have "daylighting" space, where vehicles are not allowed to park within 20 feet of a marked or unmarked crosswalk, giving motorists approaching an intersection a better view of pedestrians.
- Before crossing a street, look both ways to ensure it is safe to proceed.
- Do not proceed if a vehicle is approaching and does not come to a complete stop.
- Keep looking in all directions as you cross the street. Do not be distracted with a cell phone or other hand held devices.
- Walk, don't run! Do not make a sudden turn back into traffic.
- Never dash out into the road or chase after a bus or streetcar.
- Never step out from between parked vehicles to cross the roadway.
- When exiting from public transportation wait until the vehicle comes to a complete stop and then look both ways to ensure it is safe to proceed.
- Always obey traffic signs and signals. Watch out for turning or reversing vehicles.
- Wear bright or light color clothes at night, so you can be easily seen by motorists.
- Walk and remain on the sidewalk. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far from the roadway as possible.
- In inclement weather make sure your umbrella or raingear does not prevent you from seeing where you are walking, or seeing approaching vehicles.

Parks and public spaces in the City vary from mini-parks, to squares, playgrounds, open spaces, and a few large parks. The natural surroundings that create beauty in parks can also reduce the range of visibility and provide an opportunity for criminal activity. Think about the park area you wish to visit and what you want to do there. Factors that affect your safety in a particular park include the local crime rate, the extent of visibility, the time of day, your intended activities, alone or accompanied, and your degree of local familiarity. The following tips can improve your safety:

- Consider going with a friend, especially if going to an area that is unfamiliar or not well populated with people engaged in safe activities.
- Always carry identification. Plan to bring minimal valuables. Choose a bag that will contain your items and that you can comfortably carry and hold during your outing.
- Dress in reflective or light colored outer-wear.
- Remember that headphones or use of an electronic device reduce your awareness and ability to identify potential problems.
- If driving to the location, park where your vehicle will be safe for the duration of your stay, and your walk to and from your vehicle will be safe as well.
- Avoid opening the trunk once parked. Gather all items that you will need and place into the passenger compartment before parking at your destination, if at all possible.
- Be aware of anyone who appears to be monitoring the activity of others in a suspicious manner, such as to possibly take advantage of someone.
- If you intend to picnic or lounge in the park choose an area where it is safe to do so. Maintain possession of your important belongings and always carry a cell phone. Have your phone set to 9-1-1, for easy access.
- As you move through the park and time passes, notice changes in conditions and people around you. If you do not feel genuinely safe, move or change your course as the situation warrants.
- Be careful during storms and stay away from large trees during heavy winds that may break loose and fall.

cont'd on page 4

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

METNA NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
@ Palmetto Meeting Hall, 640 Palmetto Avenue at 7:00pm

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

MET COMMUNITY CONNECTORS
@ Golden Gate Church of Christ
Community Room, Corner of Upper Palmetto & Head St.

Tuesdays, 10:00am – 11:00 Senior Exercise

Tuesdays, 11:00am-12:00 noon Social Hour

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
@Minnie & Lovie Ward Rec. Center
650 Capitol Avenue, at Minerva

Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 5:00pm-7:00pm

METNA NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY
@Chester-Palmetto Mini Park

Saturday, August 17, 2024, 11:00am-2:00pm

SISTERHOOD GARDENS' BUILD DAYS
Brotherhood & Arch

10:00am – 1:00pm on the following dates

Saturday, August 10, 2024

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Saturday, October 12, 2024

METNA OFFICERS

President
 Marc Christensen
 60 Kempton Ave.
 415 585-2465
 christensen.marc.
 metna@gmail.com

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Sergeant at Arms
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Treasurer
 Sue Harless
 79 Kempton Ave
 415 347-7361

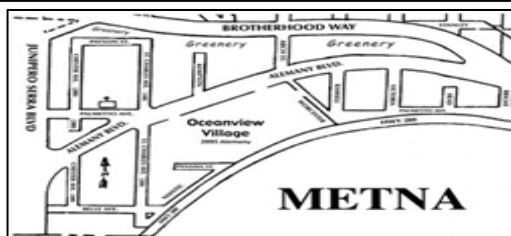
Neighborhood Improvement
 Claire Sanchez
 3990 Alemany Blvd
 415 334-3700
 claire@sailawaynow.
 com

Executive Committee

Joan Broer
 3981 Alemany Blvd #108
 415 347-3188

Neil Hunt
 239 St. Charles Ave
 415 308-3486

Ted Pudlik
 3934 Alemany Blvd
 626 254-3218



ROUND TWO OF THE BROTHERHOOD WAY/ST. CHARLES AVENUE SAFETY AND CIRCULATION PLAN DELAYED

In May, David Long, Senior Transportation Planner, gave members of the Study Community Working Group an email with a study update. "We have begun developing three alternative concepts which respond to the need we heard from this group and the broader community in our first round of outreach. Unfortunately the project team is still working to refine our traffic modeling methodology. The information generated from these traffic analyses is important to ensure concepts are free of fatal-flaws and is critical to help the community understand the benefits and drawbacks of various ideas. The outstanding questions won't be resolved in time to evaluate concepts and share findings with stakeholders in May as we had originally planned."

Long goes on to state, "For this reason, we need to delay our second round of outreach." Currently the project team is working to revise the project schedule and will share an update as soon as possible.

LAKE MERCED IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

Earlier this year the Recreation and Park Department completed upgrades to the first phase of the Lake Merced South area, with an ADA accessible asphalt path, adjacent to the existing concrete bridge. New landscaping along with new picnic tables and benches were added. An area with new exercising equipment was also installed. The renovations are part of a larger Lake Merced Improvement Project.

The second phase, now being constructed, focuses on the northwest portion of Lake Merced. It will have new pathways, and new adult exercise equipment.

Finally, the Lake Merced West project, at the 11-acre site of the former Pacific Rod and Gun Club is being cleared of existing old structures. This area is envisioned to contain new recreation facilities which have been in the planning stages for the past eight years. No date on this area of Lake Merced's renovation and construction has been given.

Lake Merced is the closest body of fresh water to a salt water body (the Pacific Ocean) in the world. It is a haven for local and migratory birds, four legged animals, as well as a prime destination for birdwatchers, hikers, bikers, boaters, golfers (4 courses on the edge of the Lake), runners/joggers, and for persons who like to fish or just relax.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

SUBWAY REACHES A MILESTONE—20 YEARS AT OVV

Subway opened its doors on June 30, 2004, with Rhonda Murray as the franchise owner. Then in April, 2007 Sean Pouyamehr took over ownership. Subway has been a valued business in our community. Please support Subway with your patronage whenever possible. Good food awaits!

EXTREME PIZZA WILL CELEBRATE 20 YEARS AT OVV

Extreme Pizza opened its doors at OceanView Village on October 30, 2004, with Jackie and Betty Gan as franchise owners of the popular pizza chain. Extreme Pizza has been a valued business in the community for the past 20 years, supporting METNA, and supplying their wonderful pizzas at our neighborhood meetings for the entire 20 years. We congratulate Jackie and Betty on their milestone. Please support Extreme Pizza with purchases whenever possible. Quality foods for you and your family!

AT&T STORE NOW OPEN AT OCEANVIEW VILLAGE

AT&T store opened on Saturday, July 20th. Their hours are Mon.-Sat. 10:00am to 6:00pm, and Sundays 11:00am-5:00pm. AT&T is a service provider, offering all aspects of wireless phone service. Everyone is welcome to visit to see supplies and services.

MOSAIC TILES ADDED TO RAMSELL STAIRS ADJACENT TO SISTERHOOD GARDENS

"Together We Bloom," a 24-step mosaic tile mural was added to the Ramsell Stairs, adjacent to Sisterhood Gardens on July 13 and 14.

After a long delay, the mosaic tiles were glued to the façade of the stairs by members of the community. Artist Kim Jensen designed the mosaic tiles with input from community members, beginning in 2021. Bureaucratic delays with city agencies delayed the approval process. A large plaque detailing the "Together We Bloom" mosaic mural was installed last fall, adjacent to the stairs.

NOMINATION OF METNA OFFICERS

Nominations for METNA officers for the 2025-27 term will take place at the Tuesday, August 13th METNA Neighborhood Meeting.

Offices open for nomination 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, the offices of president, vice president and secretary must be vacated. Other executive officer positions are appointed by the president, subject to approval by the current executive officers.

METNA welcomes a full slate of candidates for each office. Names of any candidates for any office may be submitted to vice president Glen Hatakeyama prior to the August 13th meeting, or nominated from the floor during the nomination portion of the meeting. Any METNA member in good standing (current paid dues), who currently lives or owns property within the Merced Extension Triangle, or a business owner within the MET, also in good standing may be nominated.

Voting for all officers will take place at the November 12th METNA meeting, and the newly elected officers will serve from February 2025 through January 2027.

SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL IN THE MET OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS

After a somewhat normal rainfall total of 23.4 inches of rain, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, the last two years produced more rain than the Merced Extension Triangle has seen in many years.

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 saw 35.58 inches of rainfall in the MET during the fiscal year. An atmospheric river brought 4.85 inches of rain on December 31, 2022 (5.46 in downtown San Francisco), causing major flooding throughout San Francisco. The wettest months were December at 10.55 inches and January with 8.90 inches of rainfall. February 2023 saw 4.15 inches, with a wetter March totaling 7.95 inches.

This past fiscal year, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, the MET recorded 29.35 inches of rain. December's total was 8.45 inches, with January 2024 at 7.15 inches in the MET. February's total was 5.40 with 11 days of rain, and by the end of February the year to date total had reached 22.40. Keeping backyards clear of weeds, and the open space areas of the city need to be kept mowed and cleared of tall grass. Report any tall grass areas to 311, to prevent possible random fires.



Ramsell stairs mosaic tiles

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PARKMERCED? KEEPING YOU INFORMED OR MISINFORMED

Each year when METNA has asked the Community Outreach spokesperson at Maximus Real Estate Partners, when will the massive planned redevelopment at Parkmerced take place, the answer always seems to be "we are within a year of breaking ground." A look back at the developer's comments has remained the same over the past, more than ten years, as the project has sat in limbo. Here is what was reported:

May, 2014: "Maximus Real Estate partners and the Fortress Investment Group are set to demolish 1,538 garden apartments and build 7,217 new housing units between 2015..."

February, 2015: "The developers plan to break ground on their 20 to 30 years build-out this fall."

August, 2016: "The 30-year build-out of Parkmerced is scheduled to begin sometime this fall."

November, 2016: "The projected \$1.2 billion renovation will begin in December (2016), breaking ground at 199 Vidal Drive and 300 Arballo Drive."

May, 2017: "Within the next month or so groundbreaking will take place at Parkmerced to transform the current 3,200 complex into 8,900 housing units over the next twenty-plus years. After numerous delays the project is finally on track to begin shortly."

February, 2018: "The latest timeline on groundbreaking at Parkmerced shows that the Street Improvement Plan first phase will begin in February (2018). Soon after the Street Improvement Plan is underway, groundbreaking will take place at 199 Vidal Drive."

November, 2018: "According to Parkmerced groundbreaking for their multi-million dollar, 20-25 year, makeover will begin soon. They state, 'The new timeline is representative of the most accurate schedule to date. Dates are (still) tentative and may shift.'"

November, 2019: "Traffic will continue to increase along Brotherhood Way (as Parkmerced) goes from its current 3,200 housing units to an anticipated 8,900 units in the next 20 years."

February, 2021: "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no in person community meetings are being held. All communication remains through electronic means."

(A website on the latest proposals for Parkmerced were given).

May, 2022: (Title, "Parkmerced More Than Eight Years Behind Schedule.")

"Since that time...it remains to be seen when this project will commence."

November, 2022: According to Parkmerced's Pulse Resident Newsletter for Fall 2022, "The project teams are working closely with the City to finalize the Street Improvement Permit and working towards pre-construction in late 2023."

It is now mid-2024, and there is currently no timeline for Parkmerced to begin demolition and construction. What is known, and recently reported in the Chronicle, is that Maximus' now \$1.8 billion mortgage for the redevelopment of Parkmerced is scheduled to mature by the end of 2024. If unable to meet its mortgage obligations, it could lead to foreclosure proceedings and either a further delay, or the cancellation of the massive project.

safety cont'd from page 2

* Be actively aware of your environment as part of enjoying the park. Know how to identify potential problems.

* If you feel threatened, take immediate action by running in the opposite direction or calling out for help.

* Self-defense classes can be a great way to increase your knowledge and confidence around street and park safety.

JOIN METNA

METNA NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 11:00am-2:00pm

METNA will hold a neighborhood block party on Saturday, August 17, from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Chester-Palmetto Mini Park, corner of Chester and Palmetto.

The METNA Block Party is open to all residents in the Merced Extension Triangle including all residents of OceanView Village. Bring your family and spend several hours meeting neighbors, sharing food, and socializing.

Again, the theme will be disaster preparedness. It will give residents a chance to meet our Block Champion leaders of Resilient MET, and a chance for OceanView Village to form their own resiliency groups within their buildings.

The theme also ties into METNA's August 13th, 7:00pm METNA Meeting, featuring Adrienne Bechelli, Deputy Director, Division of Emergency Services, City and County of San Francisco Department of Emergency Management, and Hope Kaye, Director, Office of Emergency Services at San Francisco State University, along with Emma Heiken, Legislative Aide, District 7, and Taraval District Police Captain Brien Hoo.

Resilient MET is looking to find several additional neighbors who wish to become a Block Champion.

Resilient MET and H-Mart will again co-sponsor the event with food and beverages. METNA asks that additional food items be prepared by attendees, such as a salad, main dish, or desert of your choice. Please supply a serving fork or spoon with your dish. METNA will supply, paper plates, plastic utensils, plus garbage bins for trash, compost and recyclables. We also suggest for your comfort that you bring a small table and outdoor chairs, if you wish.

"No Parking" signs will be posted on the east side of the 300 block of Chester, in front of the mini park between the hours of 9:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday, August 17th. The street will remain open for residents on the west side of Chester.

Thank you in advance for your interest and cooperation. METNA looks forward to having you and your family attend.

METNA REMINDER

DOG OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY: DOG FECES PICKUP

Public Health Code: Section 40

Public Health Code 40 states: "Dogs to be controlled so as not to commit nuisances. It shall be unlawful for the owner or custodian of a dog who permits said dog to defecate on public or private property, or who walks a dog without carrying a container suitable for the removal of dog excrement."

This public health code applies to sidewalks, streets, vacant lots, public parks (including dog parks), and all property, including one's own backyard.

The Public Health Department reminds everyone with a pet to properly and immediately clean up after your pet. All dog walkers are required to carry a bag to pick up and properly dispose of pet litter in a bag to be placed in your households' BLACK trash bin.

It is important that everyone remains a good neighbor and always picks up after their pet. Take pride in your neighborhood, remain responsible, while keeping our community safe and clean.