

# The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

Volume 20 Number 1

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

November 2019

## PERMITTING PROCESS DELAYS OPENING OF HMART

The anticipated opening of Hmart at OceanView Village has been pushed back until at least April of 2020. The permitting process has been cumbersome, to say the least.

Beginning in February of this year, the permits moved through the normal channels with electrical, plumbing, etc. In June permits were sent to the Fire Department, then in July on to the Health Department, and as of mid-September permitting went back to the Fire Department. The Fire Department signed off on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Marc Christensen, vice president of METNA states, "Following the permitting process has been very frustrating. I do not understand why permits go from

one city department and then to another, and why a streamlining process is not used that would be beneficial by sending out the permits to each agency at the same time. Now I fully understand why retail establishments are frustrated and disappointed at the slow pace of getting a project approved in San Francisco."

The slow pace of the permit process through the Department of Building Inspection is costing Hmart quite a bit of money, both in rent and built-in costs, the City money in lost sales and payroll tax revenue, and the community with a delay in having a state-of-the-art supermarket in the neighborhood.

Current projections envision Hmart not opening until at least April, 2020.

METNA will be raffling off another \$50 gift certificate, to be used at Hmart, to a current METNA member in attendance at the November 12<sup>th</sup> neighborhood meeting. We wish to thank Sam Kim, Executive Director of Hmart, for its generous contribution.

### RESILIENT MET MEETING

Tuesday, November 12, 2019  
6:00pm @ Palmetto Meeting Hall  
640 Palmetto Avenue

#### Topics:

- >Selection of Block Captains
- >Storage of Emergency Supplies

**ALL NEIGHBORS WELCOME**

## PETITION TO KEEP BROTHERHOOD WAY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE GAINS WIDE SUPPORT

A petition to "Keep the pedestrian bridge at Brotherhood Way and Chumasero Drive" has garnered wide support throughout neighboring communities.

Over 1,900 people have signed the petition, which reads, "We, the undersigned, want to see the Brotherhood Way Pedestrian Bridge at Chumasero Drive remain, as part of Vision Zero Pedestrian Safety. This bridge provides a safe passage across Brotherhood Way for all pedestrians, especially for children and the elderly, plus for disabled persons and bicyclists." It further states, "We are opposed to any at grade crossing that places anyone in close proximity to vehicles traveling in any direction at this intersection. Furthermore, if Parkmerced Developers insist that the current pedestrian bridge must be removed so that they can build their two 14-story residential buildings on the site, then they must construct a new pedestrian bridge across Brotherhood Way at the same intersection."

METNA executive board members, president Glen Hatakeyama, and vice-president Marc Christensen along with other concerned leaders in the surrounding neighborhoods, including leaders of the three schools along Brotherhood Way, and Alma Via, the elderly assisted living facility located directly at the intersection will soon meet with Parkmerced Developers and community stakeholders to strongly advocate for keeping the existing pedestrian bridge. Even though the current bridge, built in 1964 by Public Works, is not ADA compliant by today's standards, it still remains ADA accessible, as do many other pedestrian bridges in San Francisco that traverse major roadways, such as those on Geary Blvd., Portola Drive, and Highways I-280 and 101.

The Parkmerced developers claim that they must demolish the Brotherhood Way Pedestrian Bridge to make way for two 14-story housing towers. They want to put in an at grade roadway crossing with bulb outs, a median wait area, along with pedestrian signals. Even though it has been brought to the developer's attention that the number of vehicles on Brotherhood Way, currently at over 40,000 each weekday, especially when San Francisco State is in session, and the fact that most vehicles travel in excess of the posted 45mph speed limit in both directions, this is an accident waiting to happen. Building bulb outs places pedestrians in closer proximity to traffic, plus for several hours each morning and evening during the heavy commute hours, during several months of the year, the sun rises and sets directly in the eyes of motorists in both directions on

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### METNA MEETING

Tuesday November 12, 2019  
7:00pm, Palmetto Meeting Hall  
640 Palmetto Avenue  
(between St. Charles and Chester)

#### Invited Guests

Supervisor Norman Yee, District 7  
SF Board of Supervisors

Nick Rainsford, Captain  
Taraval Police Station, SFPD

Sam Kim, Executive Director  
Hmart Companies, Inc.

Joaquin Torres, Director  
Mayor's Office of Economic and  
Workforce Development  
Joshua Arce, Director  
Workforce Development

Gwendolyn Brown, Program Dir.  
Young Community Developers, Inc.

Deb Campbell  
Animal Care and Control

**ALL NEIGHBORS WELCOME**

## PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM WINTER STORMS

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Public Works and METNA want residents to be safe during potential winter storms. Here's a list of things you can do to protect you, your family and property during winter storms:

### BEFORE A WINTER STORM HAPPENS:

- >Make sure you have a 3-day supply of water (3 gallons per person) plus easy to prepare food.
- >Purchase a supply of flashlights and batteries.
- >Make sure you have an ample supply of blankets and warm clothing, especially if the power goes off.
- >Clear rain gutters and down spouts several times a year, especially prior to the rainy season.
- >Prepare an emergency plan and kit. Useful guides are available at [www.sf72.org](http://www.sf72.org).
- >Sign up for weather alerts: The National Weather Service provides forecasts at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov). Local alerts for weather and more are available through [AlertSF.org](http://AlertSF.org).
- >Make or pick up sandbags. Up to 10 free sandbags are available to San Francisco residents and businesses, from SF Public Works, Monday through Saturday, 7:00am to 3:00pm at 2323 Cesar Chavez St., with the entrance at the Marin St/Kansas St. gate.
- >Make sure to have a required backflow prevention device if you have any plumbing fixtures that are below street level.

### DAYS PRIOR TO A STORM:

- >Fill your vehicle's gas tank. This helps prevent the fuel line from freezing, especially if vehicles are parked outside.
- >Check your supply of flashlights and lanterns to see that they are working properly.
- >Charge your cell phones and other electronics.
- >Roll out any generators/large battery backups. DO NOT use a gas generator anywhere indoors.
- >Make sure all adults know how to shut off your main water valve in case your water pipes burst.
- >Make sure you know how to manually operate your electronic garage door. There is usually a cord with a release switch.
- >Protect areas below street level. Interior spaces below street level are most prone to flooding.
- >Improve drainage in and around your home and property.
- >Check your sewer connections to make sure water is flowing freely to the street. If not, unplug the restriction in your line(s).

### DURING THE STORM:

- >Elevate belongings to make sure valuable items and any chemicals of any type are not exposed to water.
- >Avoid driving. If you must drive, make certain that you have an emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
- >Have a battery operated radio available to listen to weather updates.
- >Use battery operated flashlights and lanterns. Avoid using candles for illumination to avoid the risk of a house fire.
- >If temperatures drop below freezing, wrap outdoor pipes and those exposed to the freezing temperatures with cloth to prevent freezing.
- >If power is out for extended periods of time, dress warmly in layers of clothes.. Also protect your face, hands, and feet.
- >Sleep with extra blankets while you dress warmly.
- >Stay dry. Change clothes immediately if you get wet.
- >If the power goes out, unplug any important electrical devices to avoid a surge when power is restored.
- >Disconnect appliances, except the refrigerator, if you are required to leave your property. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- >Obviously, avoid any downed power lines, and stay clear of any power lines in water.
- >Do not drive or wade into water where you cannot see the ground, especially if the water is moving rapidly.
- >Report any issues to 311. You may call, tweet, or use the app to report any issues with damaged or clogged catch basins, or water or sewer backups on or near your property. Also report any downed trees or power lines to 311.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### METNA MEETING SCHEDULE

7:00pm at the Palmetto Meeting Hall @640 Palmetto Avenue (between St. Charles & Chester):  
 Tuesday, November 12, 2019  
 Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
 Tuesday, May 12, 2020  
 Tuesday, August 11, 2020

### MET COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

At the Golden Gate Church@201 Head Street (at upper Palmetto Ave)10:00am Tuesdays & Thursdays: Always Active senior exercise classes.

### POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month @the Taraval Police Station 2345 24<sup>th</sup> Ave, unless otherwise posted.  
 Visit: [www.taraval.org](http://www.taraval.org) for time & location  
 @ Mini & Lovie Ward Rec. Center  
 Capitol & Montana Sts.  
 Tuesday, November 19, 2019 6:00 pm

### OCEANVIEW VILLAGE HOA MEETING

@ OceanView Village HOA Office.,  
 Tuesday, November 19, 2019 7:00 pm

### SISTERHOOD GARDENS

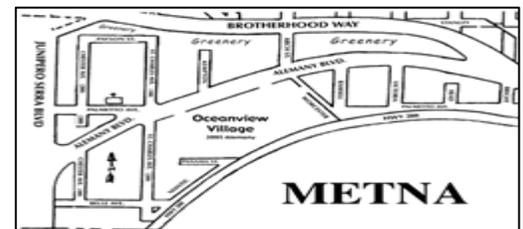
Located @ north-east corner of Brotherhood Way and Arch St. Workshops at the Garden are free & open to the public. Work day: Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019 10:00am to 3:00 pm

### OCEAN VIEW BRANCH LIBRARY

@ 345 Randolph, at Ramsell Hours: M-Tue.10am-6pm, Wed. 12n-8pm, Thur 10am-7pm, Fri. 1pm-6pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, and Sun. 1pm-5pm  
 Check with Library for upcoming community meetings.

## METNA OFFICERS

President Glen Hatakeyama 207 Chester Ave. 415 333-0197 ragtime217@gmail.com	Vice President Marc Christensen 60 Kempton Ave. 415 585-2465 christensen.marc.metna@gmail.com
Secretary Eric Berquist 233 Chester Ave. 415 939-2377 ericafton@gmail.com	Treasurer Richard Zerga 1095 Clayton St. SF 94117 rjz1@comcast.net
Sargeant at Arms Glenn Rogers 3425 Alemany Blvd. 408 838-9308	Neighborhood Improvement Steve Heide 306 St. Charles Ave. 650 991-0463
Executive Committee	
Sue Harless 79 Kempton Ave 415 347-7361	Celia Herman 221 Chester Ave 415 559-2753
Neil Hunt 239 St. Charles 415 308-3486	



Storm cont'd from page 2

#### AFTER THE STORM:

- >Protect yourself – DO NOT handle any live electrical wires or equipment in wet areas.
- >If gas service has been shut off, DO NOT restore gas service yourself.
- >Call PG&E at 800-743-5000 for a restoration appointment.
- >Minimize direct contact with floodwater. Wear protective clothing and latex gloves to remove items that may be contaminated. DO NOT use any food that has come in contact with floodwater. Discard items in the proper trash receptacle.
- >Prevent mold. Flooded buildings should be pumped out, disinfected and dried as quickly as possible to prevent mold and mildew. Certain items that retain floodwater should be discarded properly.
- >ADOPT A CATCH BASIN: You can help keep litter and organic matter out of catch basin grates before storms and reporting any problems to 311. To adopt a drain go to [adoptadrain@afwater.org](mailto:adoptadrain@afwater.org).

#### PG&E's PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) went into effect for the first time in early October. Close to 738,000 customers were without power across many parts of Northern California for several days. San Francisco was exempt this time.

PG&E's plan is to turn off electricity if extreme fire danger conditions threaten portions of their electrical system. While no simple factor will drive a Public Safety Power Shutoff, some factors include: a Red Flag Warning declared by the National Weather Service; low humidity levels, generally below 20%; forecasted sustained winds generally above 25 mph and wind gusts in excess of 45 mph, depending upon location and specific conditions such as temperature, terrain, and local climate; a condition of dry fuel on the ground and live vegetation (moisture content); and on-the-ground, real time observations from PG&E's WSOE and field observations from PG&E crews.

PG&E's goal, dependent on weather conditions, is to send outage alerts to customers 48 hours, 24 hours, and just prior to shutting off power. PG&E will notify people through automated call, texts, e-mails, and through the media. Make sure PG&E has your current contact information so that you can be notified in the event of a PSPS. PG&E has stated that in extreme cases power could be off for up to five days.

Be prepared and follow precautions listed on page 2 and 3 (above, and from "Disaster Preparedness" in the August, 2019 METNA News). More information is available at: [pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety) or [prepareforpowerdown.com](http://prepareforpowerdown.com). and at [pge.com/pspszipcodealerts](http://pge.com/pspszipcodealerts).

#### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

##### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> IS DIST. 7 COMMUNITY CLEAN TEAM DAY**

Public Works' District 7 Community Clean Team Day is set for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. METNA is planning on organizing several neighborhood projects for the morning of November 16<sup>th</sup>. METNA is looking for volunteers who can spend a few hours at one of several locations: 1. Pick up trash/litter throughout the neighborhood; 2. Cleaning and pruning shrubs in the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt, at the end of Kempton Avenue; and 3. Cleaning and pruning shrubs and bushes in the Greenbelt at Arch and Alemany. Contact Marc Christensen, Glen Hatakeyama, or Steve Heide to volunteer (phone numbers are listed on page 2). You may also sign up at the Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> METNA meeting.

##### **FREE EXERCISE CLASSES FOR SENIORS CONTINUES IN THE MET**

Free senior exercise classes are being offered by the Merced Extension Triangle Community Connectors program. The classes are offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00am to 11:00am at the Golden Gate Church of Christ meeting room at 201 Head Street at the corner of Upper Palmetto Avenue. This is a "go at your own pace" exercise class directed for seniors. All senior neighbors are welcome to attend these free classes. METCC wishes to thank the Community Living Campaign and District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee for their financial support for the classes.

##### **MOUNTAIN LION SPOTTED AT LAKE MERCED**

Reports of a mountain lion

sighting at Lake Merced and in Golden Gate Park have prompted wildlife officials to issue a warning. As wild animals enter an urban setting, it is important that those persons walking, hiking, cycling and picnicking be aware of their surroundings at all times.

An increase of coyotes in and around most open spaces in San Francisco, including the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt and Lake Merced, have led to earlier warnings, especially during late spring and early summer pupping season.

The wildlife interface with humans is of concern. METNA will have a representative from Animal Care and Control make a presentation and answer questions at our November 12<sup>th</sup> METNA Neighborhood Meeting.

#### BART MOVING STRICTLY TO CLIPPER CARD

The Clipper Card, used to board all transit systems in the Bay Area, is becoming the card to use on BART, as the system eliminates the traditional magnetic white paper fare card.

The transition to only the Clipper Card will take place sometime in 2020, when all fare machines and fare gates are updated. In 2018 BART began charging 50-cents more per ride for the paper tickets as they began their "phase out" of those tickets.

The idea behind using only the Clipper Card is to reduce the cost of processing the tickets and cash. With paper tickets there were numerous fare gate failures with tickets being jammed in the fare collection gates. With the Clipper Card you just touch the card to the reader on top of the gate.

A new Clipper Card costs an initial \$3 and then the person can load dollar amounts on the card at any time at either a station or at Walgreens. Cards can also be registered if you wish so that if your Clipper Card is lost or stolen you can recoup your lost amount which is kept in the system.

Seniors, children and people with disabilities can get discounted Clipper Cards online or at designated locations without paying the \$3 fee.

Go online at [clippercard.com](http://clippercard.com) for further information, and you may reach customer service either at 877-878-8883, or at [custserv@clippercard.com](mailto:custserv@clippercard.com).

#### THE HUB--A NEW JOB CENTER IN THE OMI IS NOW OPEN

A new job center has opened in the OMI for neighborhood residents looking for work. Called the Hub, a.k.a. Young Community Development, Inc., located at 200 Broad Street, at Capitol, persons looking for work may apply. Open from 9:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Friday, the Hub offers job search assistance, job training, career planning, plus computer and internet access. This job center is an initiative of the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development. Invited to attend the November 12<sup>th</sup> METNA meeting are Joshua Arce, Director of Workforce Development, and Gwendolyn Brown, program director at the Hub.

### 57-PARKMERCED BUS NOW HAS TWO STOPS IN THE MET

Two days after the METNA News went to press in late July, SFMTA posted a route change for the 57-Parkmerced bus line heading northbound through Parkmerced, the Stonestown Galleria, Lakeside Village (Ocean Avenue) and on to West Portal, and westbound to Lake Merced (via Brotherhood Way) around the west side of Lake Merced to the Lakeshore Shopping Center on Sloat Blvd.

The 57-Parkmerced line has been rerouted off of Highway 1 (Junipero Serra) to Brotherhood Way to “reduce evening delays and add service to a new supermarket (Hmart) on Alemany and Arch.”

The 57 stop at Junipero Serra and Palmetto (northbound) has been eliminated for the 57-line. The 28-19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, northbound, will continue to stop there. There are now **two** new stops for the 57-line in the MET. One stop is on the south-west corner of Alemany, at St. Charles, where the 54-Felton also stops. There is also a stop for the 57-line on the north-east corner of Arch, at Alemany, just after the 57 turns left off of Alemany at Arch, and prior to turning left on to Brotherhood Way.

Please note, just as before, there are **two** distinct 57 routes. Make sure that before you board that you know which 57-bus you are boarding—the one **north** to Parkmerced, to SF State, and “West Portal,” **or** the one **west** to Lake Merced, the Sunset, and “Sunset & Sloat,” near Lakeshore Plaza. The return trip to Daly City BART remains the same, using Junipero Serra (Hwy. 1) to John Daly Blvd. Therefore, there is **not** a stop on a return trip at either Arch & Alemany, nor at Alemany & St. Charles on the 57-line’s route to Daly City BART. You can, however, stay on the 57 bus after Daly City BART, and wait for it to return to either Alemany & St. Charles, or Arch & Alemany. There may be a short layover at Daly City BART. Or, you may wish to get off at BART and walk back over the St. Charles Bridge.

On weekdays, the first trip is at 5:55am, with the last trip at 11:05pm. On weekends the 57 runs from 7:15am to 11:00pm.

**Pedestrian Bridge cont’d from page 1**  
on Brotherhood Way.

The question then becomes, what is a life worth? An easy fix is to leave the bridge in place and reconfigure Chumasero Drive, and/or the tower locations. If that is not possible, construct a new pedestrian bridge, and then demolish the old one at a cost of perhaps \$4-5 million. After all, the cost of replacement over a 50 + year life span equates to \$100,000 a year. Meanwhile, Parkmerced will be gathering millions of dollars in rents from their two new towers, alone.

Traffic will continue to increase along Brotherhood Way with the build out of Parkmerced from its current 3,200 housing units to an anticipated 8,900 units in the next 20 years, plus the stated expansion of San Francisco State in their 2035 vision plan. Those who currently use the pedestrian bridge believe that Parkmerced has a legal and moral obligation to making the crossing of Brotherhood Way the safest possible under Vision Zero Pedestrian Safety.

Vision Zero, the 2024 goal of no pedestrian fatalities, begs to have a safe passage across Brotherhood Way. It makes common sense to keep pedestrians safe and away from traffic flows whenever possible.

### NEW OCEAN VIEW LIBRARY PROPOSED FOR THE BROTHERHOOD WAY GREENBELT

San Francisco Public Works released a feasibility study on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Library Commission meeting for a new 2-story, 20,000 sq. ft. Ocean View Branch Public Library. The study evaluated potential building sites with a set of seven criteria that focused on neighborhood connectivity, accessibility to transit, walkability, and safety. Only one site (Option D) located on the corner of Orizaba and Brotherhood Way met “all the site viability criteria and is the site recommended for further study,” according to the report.

There is concern among some neighborhood residents attending the October 17<sup>th</sup> Library Commission meeting that the site, located with-

in the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt, will lead to further development along the open space corridor. Although the site chosen in the Public Works study utilizes Public Works’ property, the majority of speakers supported continuing to look at the potential chosen site.

Four METNA officers in attendance at the Library Commission meeting spoke, giving various individual comments, while not representing METNA, as the neighborhood association plans to study the feasibility report and then draft a statement moving forward.

Community outreach began in early 2019 with three community meetings in District 11. Now that the Feasibility Study has been released, more community engagement meetings are planned for November and through the winter of 2019-20. No date or site has yet to be announced for the meetings.

Moving forward, discussions will help inform the Library Commission for considering budget allocations for the Ocean View Branch Library project as part of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget process. Then the library staff will develop budget proposals for the FY 2021-22 budget cycle to continue to build the capital budget for the Ocean View Branch Library project.

At this time, the schedule assumes a three-year design phase, environmental review and bidding process. Midpoint of construction is assumed to be around December, 2023, at the earliest.

### METNA REMINDERS

#### WINTER SPARE THE AIR DAYS BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District’s winter Spare the Air days run from November 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of February.

When an alert is issued due to certain conditions, there is to be no use of fireplaces, wood burning stoves, pellet stoves and outdoor fire pits.

Check before you burn at SparetheAir.org or call 877-466-2876. You may also check the air quality district’s website at [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov), plus you may also sign up to receive automatic notification of “no-burn days” by either e-mail or recorded phone message.

#### DOG FECES PICKUP

##### Public Health Code: Sec. 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, 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. It is important that everyone remains a good neighbor and always picks up after his pet. Take pride in your neighborhood, remain responsible, and only then will our community remain safe and clean.

### JOIN METNA