

The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

Volume 20 Number 2

Visit us at: metna.org

February 2020

MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ON BROTHERHOOD WAY

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd

From 7:00am to 8:00pm
Precinct #9756 is located at
3609 Alemany Blvd

A meeting with parents of the schools along Brotherhood Way was held to discuss the pedestrian bridge that spans Brotherhood Way from Chumasero Drive to Thomas More Way.

On November 21st of this past year, St. Thomas More School hosted a meeting of parents from St. Thomas More School, The Brandeis School, and Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan Armenian School, with Parkmerced developers, suggested by District 7 Supervisor and Board President Norman Yee, who attended the meeting along with legislative aide Jen Low. Close to 100 persons attended the evening meeting and listened to Parkmerced developers explain their Parkmerced Vision and possible removal of the Brotherhood Way Pedestrian Bridge and the reconfiguration of Chumasero Drive.

After their 30 minute presentation, parents overwhelmingly voiced concerns about an at grade crossing with "bulb outs and a pedestrian signal." Comments ranged from "Your improvements are good, however the bridge is safe," to "Can we fix (the existing) bridge and

make it ADA compliant?" to "I disagree that this (the Parkmerced Vision Plan) is an improvement." One parent stated, "I want the safest crossing for my children and eventually my grandchildren, and that is a bridge." Another person in attendance stated, "Seniors use the bridge and that will remain the safest crossing." Plus, one senior stated, "I'm a senior citizen. We need the bridge. You (meaning Parkmerced) can do it." Many more others spoke, including several students who all want the bridge to remain as the safest crossing.

To the credit of the Parkmerced development staff in attendance, they did state that they will look into what can be done to "satisfy the wishes of the community."

At the parent meeting, Parkmerced developers stated that in January 2020 they would hold a meeting for nearby residents to hear community concerns and provide feedback. They first wanted to study possibilities brought up during the parent meeting before holding the community meeting. As the METNA News goes to press, no date has been set for that community meeting. We will notify the public once a time and place of the meeting is set.

RED ZONE EXTENSION ON ST. CHARLES FOR THE 54-BUS LINE

SFMTA has proposed adding 31 feet of a red (no parking) zone to the existing 20 foot red zone on the west side of St. Charles, just south of Alemany Blvd. The proposal from SFMTA was to allow the 54-Felton bus a "wait area" for the bus to sit when north-bound traffic on St. Charles prohibits the bus a clear passage south on St. Charles.

The original SFMTA proposal was for a 24-hour, 7-day a week 51 foot red zone, even though the 54-bus does not run 24 hours a day. This past July when a sign of the proposal was posted on a utility pole at St. Charles and Alemany, METNA officers, President Glen Hatakeyama, Vice President Marc Christensen, and Neighborhood Improvement chair Steve Heide testified at an SFMTA hearing at City Hall stating METNA's opposition to a 51-foot red zone that would eliminate two additional parking spaces on St. Charles.

To bolster their claim that it was unnecessary, the officers spent five days in August monitoring the 54-Felton between the hours of 3:00pm and 7:00pm, during the afternoon commute time to make an informed decision on the necessity of the extended red zone. The results of the observation were: 19 hours covered between 3:00pm and 7:00pm over 5 days (Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, and Thur.); of the 52 buses observed, only 7 buses were delayed, with only 3 buses delayed over 30 seconds (38 seconds, 1 min., 15 sec., and 1 min. 29 sec.); while several buses were delayed further south on St. Charles during late afternoon commute time (none over 36 seconds).

SFMTA officials then met with Glen Hatakeyama, and Marc Christensen at the site in late October to discuss the proposed red zones. It was determined that all delays, with one exception, occurred during the 5:00 pm to **cont'd on page 4**

Register to vote in the Presidential Primary Election by February 18th to cast a vote in the election on Tuesday, March 3rd. All registered voters can vote in a primary election. Voting for President depends on your listed party affiliation. You will be given a ballot with that party's candidates for President. San Francisco voters will have five ballot measures on the March 3rd ballot.

If you wish to check your registered party affiliation, go to sfelections.org/reglookup. To change, add, or remove your party preference or other registration information, re-register online at registertovote.ca.gov or complete a paper registration form. Registered voters can vote on or prior to election day at a voting center or vote by mail. For location, dates and times, plus more information visit: sfelections.org/2020primary, or call 1-415-554-4375.

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

METNA MEETING

Tuesday February 11, 2020
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

Molly Burke, Govt. & Community
Relations, BART

Amanda Chu, Outreach Coordinator
S.F. Department of Elections

Reuel Daniels, Community Engagement
Mgr. Brookfield Properties, Stonestown

ALL NEIGHBORS WELCOME

COYOTES: COEXISTING WITH OUR WILD NEIGHBORS

Coyotes are now part of the urban landscape in San Francisco. Coyotes are roaming the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt and are in and around Lake Merced. Animal Care & Control, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, and METNA want you, your family and pets to be safe and prevent conflicts when you encounter a coyote.

Facts about coyotes

- >Coyotes weight 18 to 35 pounds in the west.
- >Coyotes are common in cities and towns across North America with coexistence the widely accepted management strategy.
- >Coyotes may live alone, in pairs (they mate for life) or in family groups, and may be seen during the day or night.
- >Coyotes are omnivores, eating rabbits and rodents, fruit, vegetation, insects, and carrion. They provide free and non-toxic rodent control and are considered nature's "clean up crew."

Keeping coyotes at a distance

Wild territory is shrinking forcing wildlife to live closer to people. The following steps can help prevent coyotes from being attracted to your home:

- >Don't feed or attempt to tame a coyote.
- >Don't feed wildlife in any location. It is illegal, harmful, and can attract coyotes.
- >Clean community areas after events. Do not leave any food scraps.
- >Never leave or store pet food outside. All wild animals will be attracted to any food left outside.
- >Tightly secure garbage, recycling, and green composting bins. Store bins inside until collection day, or only place outside on the sidewalk the night before pickup.
- >When composting, use well-secured bins. Do not add meat, dairy, or eggs.
- >Remove all fallen fruit from the ground.
- >If a coyote frequents your yard, consider installing motion activated lights, and/or sprinkler system, or adding reflective mylar and or rolling pvc top to your fence.
- >Trim under bushes so that a coyote cannot find easy shelter. Close off crawl spaces under porches and sheds. Many of these suggestions also help in keeping raccoons from your property.
- >Remove water sources, especially in times of drought.

Keeping domestic animals safe

Coyotes do not know the difference between small animals, and may view small domestic animals as prey, while larger dogs may be viewed as a threat, particularly during mating season (winter) and pup rearing season (spring and summer). Most interactions with coyotes in urban areas result from the presence of a dog.

- >Do not allow your dog to interact with a coyote in any way, including chasing or playing.
- >Keep you dog under control at all times. Use a leash even in off leash areas if you cannot keep voice control.
- >If you walk your small dog at dawn or dusk in a coyote area, keep the leash short and be aware of your surroundings.
- >Do not allow companion animals to roam free and keep them inside at night.

If you encounter a coyote

Coyotes may lose their natural wariness of people because of intentional or unintentional feeding. Encourage coyotes to avoid people by "hazing" if one approaches or follows you.

- >If you can make eye contact, wave arms, make noise, blow a whistle. Be "big, bad, and loud" until the coyote retreats.
- >Keep yourself between a coyote and your companion animal. Keep small children near you at all times and calmly leave the area.
- >Read and share the *Coyote Hazing Field Guide* from the resources link at ProjectCoyote.org. Hazing correctly and consistently are key to shaping unwanted coyote behavior.

Coexistence is a neighborhood effort!

If you think neighbors are providing food or shelter for coyotes, talk to them. **Report any intentional feeding (it is illegal) to SF Animal Care & Control at 415-554-9400.** Additional tips and tools are available for download from ProjectCoyote.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

METNA MEETING SCHEDULE

7:00pm at the Palmetto Meeting Hall @640 Palmetto Avenue (between St. Charles & Chester):
 Tuesday, February 11, 2020
 Tuesday, May 12, 2020
 Tuesday, August 11, 2020
 Tuesday, November 10, 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.

OCEANVIEW VILLAGE HOA MEETING

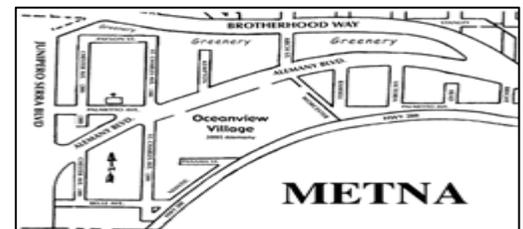
@ HOA Office at 7:00pm
 Tuesday, March 17, 2020
 Tuesday, May 19, 2020

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, February 8, 2020: 10:00am-3:00pm
 Volunteer Build Day
 Saturday, February 22, 2020: 1:00pm-3:00pm
 Workshop: How to prep your spring garden
 Saturday, March 14, 2020: 10:00am – 3:00pm
 Volunteer Build Day
 Saturday, April 11, 2020: 10:00am-1:00pm
 Volunteer Build Day; 1:00pm – 3:00pm
 Family Day with egg hunt
 Saturday, May 9, 2020: 11:00am -3:00pm
 Spring celebration / plant & seed exchange

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
Sergeant 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	



BART INCENTIVE WHEN TRAVELING TO SFO AIRPORT

The BART Board of Directors has approved a trip verification technology (TVT) policy that would give BART riders a priority line for passenger screening at San Francisco International Airport (SFO). Currently in the planning stages, BART engineers will be developing the software.

The concept is to have TVT devices at designated entry points to scan Clipper cards or QR codes on BART apps to verify a customer used public transportation to get to the airport. If the trip on BART or other public transportation (to be determined) is then verified, the customer would proceed to a priority line to go through the TSA screening. The idea is to reward BART riders with an incentive program to save time. Depending upon the outcome of the pilot program, BART could consider offering the same technology at Oakland International Airport and perhaps stadium entrances near BART stations.

There is currently no time line set for the pilot program, as this TVT goes through a development phase.

BART RAISES FARES AS OF JANUARY 1st

A 5.4% "inflation-based" fare increase on BART took place on January 1, 2020 as part of a long range plan to increase fares every

two years to "keep up with inflation." All new revenue from this fare increase will go to "BART's highest priority capital needs, including new Fleet of the Future cars and a new train control system to provide more frequent service."

Many BART riders are not happy with the fare increase while fare evaders still ride the system free, prompting many riders to complain about the inequities of BART's inability to curb and eliminate fare evasion, costing the system millions of dollars each year.

Youth 5-19 years of age will still get 50% off with a Youth Clipper Card, while seniors, age 65 and older will continue to receive a 62.5% discount with a Senior Clipper Card. There also is a regional Means-based Fare Discount Pilot Program that affords a 20% discount to adult riders below the federal poverty level.

BART NIGHTTIME WORK ON AERIAL STRUCTURE

In spring 2020 BART will begin a one year project to install a cable guardrail protection system on the aerial structure trackway from Wilson and DeLong Streets, along Alemany Blvd. and the I-280 right of way, to Naglee Ave. The nighttime work will involve lighting for illumination and drilling to place anchors. BART staff will attend the Feb. 11th METNA meeting to discuss the project.

its resiliency plans in conjunction with the Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) headed by Daniel Homsey and the CYC headed by David Munoz Ventura to develop plans and a protocol for dealing with any disaster that may affect the MET. Both Glen Hatakeyama and Marc Christensen are working closely with these two individuals to recruit neighbors who are interested in becoming block champions who will help coordinate efforts in the neighborhood, organize orientations and training, and coordinate the dispersal of emergency supplies.

In the event of an emergency in the neighborhood there are always people who are willing to help others after their homes and safety are secured. We want those people to join us to help others in the neighborhood. Please contact either Glen or Marc if you think you are one of these people.

FREE SMOKE ALARMS FROM THE RED CROSS

The Northern California Red Cross Chapter has a program for families to have 10 year sealed battery smoke alarms installed in their homes at no charge. To see if you qualify for this potentially life saving device go to:

<https://www.redcross.org/local/california/northern-california-coastal/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html> and select "Do You Need a Smoke Alarm?" You will only need to answer a few questions. It is well worth the time and effort and it may save your life.

CHANGES AT OCEANVIEW VILLAGE RETAIL

XM Global Express has closed. Owner Joe Wong was unable to secure a lease that would keep his popular mail service store open. Broe/Citivist, owners of the retail complex at OceanView Village, wanted XM Global Express to move into another location at the shopping center, at a greater cost. The move alone would have been a serious financial strain on the business. As a result of the impasse Broe/Citivist gave "notice to quit the premises" in a letter dated December 12, 2019. The date on the notice to vacate was listed as January 21, 2020. The Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development tried to broker a deal that would have kept XM Global open but to no avail. Many local residents relied on XM Global for package deliveries and their incoming post boxes at the site. Other residents relied on XM Global Express to send letters and packages via shipping companies: DHL, Fed-Ex, UPS, as well as USPS. Copy services, notary public and other services have all been curtailed.

Chase Bank, at OceanView Village, within a month or so, is changing from a "Full-service Bank" to an "Express Bank." There will no longer be service with tellers, meaning no check cashing, nor getting or depositing coins or large amounts of cash. There will be expanded ATM machines, and there still will be "service representatives" at the branch. To find a Chase full-service branch go to the Chase Mobile app, or at [chase.com/branch](https://www.chase.com/branch).

Extreme Pizza, will soon be under new ownership. Current owners Jacky & Betty Gan are in the process of selling their business to Vivian Hsu. Customers should see no changes in products or services at the popular restaurant known for its excellent pizza and other fine foods.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

THE OPENING OF HSMART AT OCEANVIEW VILLAGE

As the METNA News goes to press the latest information regarding the opening of Hmart at OceanView Village is that no such opening date has been scheduled. Construction work at the site has been taking place on a daily basis since November. It is unlikely that any date will be set in the immediate future. Right now we are possibly looking at a completion date of late summer.

SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS AT ALEMANY & ST. CHARLES

This past mid-November SFMTA, at METNA's request, added traffic and pedestrian safety enhancements both west-bound and east-bound on Alemany Blvd., approaching the St. Charles Avenue intersection. "Stop Ahead" signs and street markings were installed, along with "<Look>" stencils placed at the Alemany-St. Charles crosswalks. These safety improvements are in line with the City's Vision Zero Pedestrian

Safety initiative. METNA thanks SFMTA for their response to our concerns.

FREE EXERCISE CLASSES FOR SENIORS AT METCC

Free exercise classes are being offered by the Merced Extension Triangle Community Connectors (METCC) program for all seniors. 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 program is funded by the Community Living Campaign and District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee. Space is available for any senior wishing to join the program. Drop in and see if the program will be of benefit if you are a neighborhood senior.

RESILIENT MET IS MOVING FORWARD

METNA is moving forward with

Red zone from page 1

6:00pm time period. METNA officers concluded that a red zone for a "bus waiting area" was not needed. It is important to note that in the year 2000 METNA surveyed all parking spaces with the Merced Extension Triangle boundaries, prior to the building of OceanView Village, showing a total of 509 street parking spaces. When OVV was built there was a net loss of 29 parking spaces on Worcester, Niantic and Alemany. Since 2005 an additional 19 spaces have been lost to red zones (10 spaces to bus zones, the 54 and 28R lines, 7 to turn areas, and 2 to pedestrian crossing sight lines). The survey reveals a loss of 48 parking spaces, bringing the total spaces from 509 down to 461.

Also, OVV has 179 outside retail parking spaces and perhaps 30 underground retail parking spaces for a total of 209, strictly for shopping center use, with a current 3-hour time limit. With Hmart to open later this year at OVV, every parking space will be utilized at peak times.

At the October meeting SFMTA officials said that they still need the 51' red zone, but agreed to a limited afternoon commute period. Hatakeyama and Christensen suggested a compromise of one parking space loss (not two) for a "No Parking" extension of 14 feet (to 34 feet), but only during a 2-hour period on weekdays, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, to satisfy a bus driver that may be forced to wait for north bound traffic on St. Charles to clear.

As of the METNA News publication date no final response has been received from SFMTA.

OCEANVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY PLANNING MOVES FORWARD

The plan to build a new Oceanview Branch Public Library on Public Works land on the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt is moving forward. In early November, the METNA Executive Board passed a resolution stating:

"The Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association Executive Board is willing to support a resolution regarding construction of a new Ocean View Branch Public Library on the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt, near the corner of Brotherhood Way and Orizaba Street, set back from Brotherhood Way, under the following conditions:

1. That a signed agreement by Supervisor Ahsha Safai (Supervisor, District 11) and Supervisor Norman Yee (President, Supervisor District 7) that they would jointly draft a resolution to take to the Board of Supervisors stating that no further construction of structures of any type be built along the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt corridor, and that the land on both sides of Brotherhood Way from the Alemany-Orizaba intersection to Junipero Serra remain open space for perpetuity.

2. That, first, both San Francisco Public Works and the San Francisco Library Commission look at an alternate site consisting of a vacant lot and a condemned building on the south side of Broad Street, between Capitol and Plymouth Avenues (at approximately 131-137 Broad Street) as a more viable site for the new public library, prior to moving forward with the Brotherhood Way site. And that Public Works does a feasibility study of the Broad Street site prior to continuing to work on the Brotherhood-Orizaba site.

The resolution was presented at a community meeting and read at the Library Commission meeting in November. Neither point one or two have been agreed upon, although Supervisor Safai stated that he does agree in principal to point one. Point two was dismissed by District 11 Supervisor Ahsha Safai, and a majority of those in attendance at the community meeting, as being not in the best interest of Public Works, the Library Commission, and residents of the OMI, since "the land would have to be purchased and may not be large enough for the proposed 20,000 sq. ft., 2-story library."

Many persons at the community meeting did speak with regard to safety concerns and its isolation with the Brotherhood Way-Orizaba site on both sides of the issue.

On January 16, 2020, the Library Commission stated that they are moving forward with the Greenbelt site, under the Branch Capital Project Update. Catherine Delneo, Chief of Branches of the S. F. Public Library and Lourdes Garcia, Senior Architect with S. F. Public Works stated that they have met with S. F. Planning and SFMTA planners in December to further discuss the site and will follow up with SFMTA traffic engineers in February to look at safety improvements on Orizaba and at the Orizaba-Sagamore-Brotherhood-Alemany intersection.

Next steps would be a "Preliminary Planning Assessment (PPA)" application, in the spring of 2020, and then PPA recommendations, and a community engagement meeting in the Summer of 2020.

METNA IS REQUESTING THREE DIST 7 PARTICIPATORY BUDGET ITEMS FOR 2020

METNA is sponsoring three proposed District 7 Participatory Budget items for 2020, all related to the intersection at Alemany Blvd. and St Charles Avenue.

METNA President Glen Hatakeyama is the title sponsor of two projects at the intersection: a raised crosswalk for pedestrian safety, and a flashing red light for the impending stop on Alemany at St. Charles.

METNA Vice President Marc Christensen is the title sponsor for a security camera proposed to face east at the intersection of Alemany and St. Charles mounted on the west side of St. Charles on the median light pole.

The three proposals will be vetted by a District 7 committee under the direct supervision of Supervisor Norman Yee. If any or all proposals pass the committee, then District 7 residents will have the opportunity to vote on the proposals within the next few months. METNA will keep residents informed and will release a flyer stating what projects are approved, plus how and where to vote.

We wish to thank Norman Yee and his staff for their continued commitment to involve residents in budget decision making over the past seven years.

2020 CENSUS BEGINS APRIL 1st

The decennial federal census is upon us. Every ten years under federal law the United States Census Bureau counts the number of persons living in America. The census is taken to help provide needed funds and services and form legislative districts. It is important that every household responds.

The U.S. Census Bureau is not allowed to share individual census responses with the public nor with government agencies (e.g. immigration or law enforcement).

In March, invitations to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire will be mailed, followed by a reminder letter. April 1, 2020 is Census Day. Later in April a second reminder and questionnaire will be mailed. Those persons not responding will have a U.S. Census Bureau employee come to your home. If that is the case, make sure you ask for federal identification before answering any questions.

The printed census forms are available only in English and Spanish. Assistance guides are also available in 59 non-English languages, including Chinese. For complete information go to Californiacensus.org.

METNA REMINDER**TRASH RECEPTACLES LEFT ON SIDEWALK
Public Works Code 170 (a)**

Public Works wants to remind residents about leaving trash receptacles on the sidewalk and/or out in public view on non-pickup days. Public Works Code 170(a) states:

"Garbage receptacles are allowed on the sidewalk after 6:00pm prior to the scheduled collection days and must be brought behind the property line and hidden from public view within 24 hours after the can is serviced."

This applies to all trash receptacles including the black, blue, and green Recology bins. This also prevents wild animals such as raccoons and coyotes from foraging through trash bins. Violators are subject to a citation and fine. Help keep the neighborhood safe, clean, and attractive by adhering to Public Works Code 170(a).