

The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

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Visit us at: metna.org

August 2021

WHERE ARE THE 28R (19TH AVE.), 57-PARKMERCED BUS, & M-OCEANVIEW MUNI METRO LINES?

During the Covid-19 pandemic, SFMTA curtailed a majority of Muni service to the south-west corner of San Francisco. Brought back first was the vital 28-19th Avenue bus line, however not the 28-Rapid, serving the Merced Extension Triangle (MET) on its way to and from the Balboa Park BART Station.

The 57-Parkmerced was also shut down almost immediately after the line was rerouted off Junipero Serra, at Alemany, to serve the eventual opening of Hmart, a welcomed move, but the line has not been restored to service.

The M-Oceanview Muni Metro line was shut down, and remains so, with limited bus service as its replacement, to and from West Portal. One such proposal being discussed, unacceptable to the residents of the OMI and the MET, once San Francisco State University reopens soon, would be to have the M-line service San Francisco State and Parkmerced and end there, thus with no service along the Randolph, Broad, and San Jose Avenue corridors to Balboa Park.

The 54-Felton bus line was returned early in 2021, heading to and from Daly City BART, with several stops in the Merced Extension Triangle, but not a high volume line at its western terminus.

It appears that SFMTA has not listened to neighborhood organizations representing thousands of Muni riders in the western portion of San Francisco. Recently, those neighborhood associations have been in discussions with SFMTA through District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar. A dialogue of service requests continues.

With schools reopening in August it is vital that Muni pays attention to its previous ridership. The 28R has been an important stop at Alemany and Arch, one that was secured several years ago by METNA, a stop that used to be served by the long-ago deleted 26-Valencia line. The 28R brings residents, and high school students to both Lowell and Lincoln High Schools, via 19th Avenue. The 28R, when returned, will also service OceanView Village with its anchor supermarket Hmart, thus freeing up customers who now must drive and park in the MET. The same is true for the 57-line.

The 57 Parkmerced is a vital community service line that never should have been curtailed. No discussion ever took place with any neighborhood association prior to this service cut last year. And originally, SFMTA announced plans to shorten the line, and end its northern point at Stonestown, and recently to

Ocean Avenue and Junipero Serra Blvd., thus eliminating service to West Portal. The 57-line connected twice along its route with Daly City BART, and served seven (7) shopping districts, while serving residents in the MET, 800 Summit, Lake Merced Hill, the Lakewood Apartments (along John Muir Drive), and Parkmerced. The shopping centers that the 57-line served were OceanView Village (on Alemany), Westlake Shopping Center (two blocks south of the Lake Merced/John Muir Drive stop), Lakeshore Plaza (on Sloat), Parkmerced Shopping Center (on Cambon), Stonestown (on 20th Avenue), Lakeside Village (on Ocean), and the West Portal Shopping District (to Ulloa & West Portal). The 57 also served the Janet Pomeroy (on Skyline at Herbst), and the San Francisco Zoo (via Sloat), plus **cont'd on page 4**

SFMTA'S TOP BRASS INVITED TO ATTEND THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 10TH METNA MEETING

In June, METNA invited SFMTA Executive Director/CEO Jeffrey Tumlin, and Muni's General Manager Julie Kirschbaum to attend the Tuesday, August 10 METNA neighborhood meeting.

Muni has set a target date of August 14 to return some service cuts, including expanding evening service, Muni Owl-all-night service, adding back four lines and modifications to other lines. Jeffrey Tumlin has been consistently quoted as saying that projecting when SFMTA will return to 100% pre-Covid service operations is complicated by its current and long term budget projections. Julie Kirschbaum stated that, "These adjustments take into account stakeholder feedback and changes in Covid-19 regulations."

Two of the proposed "new and adjusted routes" are the 57-Parkmerced, with plans to remove the 57 line from Brotherhood Way and Lake Merced Blvd, and no longer serving West Portal, as well as Lakeshore Plaza, plus a "new" 58-Lake Merced line traveling along John Muir Drive and Sloat Blvd, while connecting to Lakeshore Plaza, the Westlake Shopping Center on John Daly Blvd., Daly City, and connecting to Daly City BART and Muni's 14-Mission line. There is no mention of bringing back the 28-Rapid line, once serving the MET, with a key stop at Arch and Alemany.

These decisions were made without any consultation with neighborhood or merchant associations on the west side of San Francisco.

METNA MEETING

Tuesday August 10, 2021
7:00pm, Virtual ZOOM Meeting

Invited Guests

Jeffrey Tumlin, Director/CEO
Julie Kirschbaum, Muni General Manager
Sean Kennedy, Senior Transportation Planner
MUNI/SFMTA

Lila Carillo, Legislative Aide
Megan Imperial, Legislative Aide
Dist. 7 S.F. Board of Supervisors

Nick Rainsford, Captain
Taraval Police Station, SFPD
Rani Singh, District Liaison
District Attorney's Office

Laura Kim, Campaign Manager
Better SF Public Schools Campaign

THE VIRTUAL ZOOM METNA MEETING
IS OPEN TO CURRENT METNA
MEMBERS ONLY

Contact METNA Vice President Glen Hatakeyama by August 8th for a link to the meeting

DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATED EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT AT HOME, IN YOUR VEHICLE, AT YOUR WORKPLACE?

METNA is ordering emergency items for the community, to be used in case of a catastrophic emergency. However, are you prepared for an emergency with supplies in case of a major disaster? Being prepared now with emergency supplies can add to your health, safety, and comfort during and after a disaster. Have enough supplies for at least 72 hours. Here is a checklist of items to be prepared:

Home supply kit – good for a minimum of 72 hours

- Water, 1 gallon per person, per day for at least 3 to 5 days (4 people = 12-20 gallons)
- Bleach, to purify domestic water, if needed. (2 to 4 drops per quart), or a water purification kit
- Food, enough to feed a family for 3-5 days. Choose foods that: are easily stored, ready to eat, have a shelf life of at least 1 year before it needs to be replaced; canned and dried foods, soups, canned juice and milk, etc.
- Cooking utensils: knives, forks, spoons, including plastic utensils, non-electric can opener, camping stove with propane for outdoor cooking, paper plates and cups, paper towels, heavy-duty aluminum foil, pots and pans
- Essential medications and first aid kit: band aides, bandages, adhesive tape, gauze pads, hydrogen peroxide, eye drops, antiseptic wound care products, scissors, tweezers, and extra set of eye glasses.
- Hygiene supplies: soap, liquid detergent, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, tissue paper, toilet paper, sanitary supplies (sanitary napkins make excellent pressure bandages), more paper towels, plastic bags for disposable waste
- Safety supplies: one flash light for each person, at least one hands-free head-strap search light, extra batteries of all sizes (check use date, and update as needed, every six months to a year), duct tape (at least two full rolls), plastic sheeting, a good pair of scissors, a can of WD-40 (or other penetrating oil lubricant), rope, a sharp knife. several fire extinguishers (UL rated 3-A: 40 B:C, and check recharge level every six months), cloth work gloves, box of nitrile-type disposable plastic gloves
- Tool kit: with hammer, screw drivers (both slotted and Phillips heads), wrench (large enough for utility shut-off), small saw (if needed to cut wood), shears (to cut through metal), tape measure (may come in handy for size use), nails and screws (various sizes)
- General supplies: plastic bags, money (ATM's may not be working), pencil, paper, block/city/area maps, extra set of house and car keys, ID cards for each member of the family, "space" blankets, emergency contact information and reunification plans, up to date insurance information
- Pet supplies: food, water, bowls, restraint (leash or carrier), medications, poop bags for proper disposal
- Clothing: a complete change of clothing for each person (stored so it stays dry and clean), jackets or sweatshirts to keep each person warm, boots or heavy duty (yet comfortable) shoes, gloves, and rain gear
- If you evacuate you may need a tent, sleeping bags, non-electric light or lantern, and a cart or wheel barrow to move all your items
- Special items for infants, children, elderly, and disabled persons

Vehicle Kit

Keep gasoline tank half full at all times

- Basic first aid kit
- Cell phone (charged, and not left in unattended vehicle)
- Money (do not leave in unattended vehicle)
- Flashlight and/or hands-free head strap search light (with extra batteries)
- Portable radio
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Small amount of water and non-perishable food (rotate every two to three months, especially in warm weather)
- Small tool kit (with screw drivers and adjustable wrenches)
- Safety warning light, and/or reflective triangle warning set
- Spare tire and vehicle jack with lug nut wrench
- Battery jumper cables
- Sturdy rope and bungee cords
- Extra glasses and sun glasses
- Contact information and area map

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MET COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

Daily on line classes, go to www.sfcommunityliving.org for complete listing. To receive your own monthly copy, contact Laura Atkins at laura@communityliving.org or call 415-341-4713.

POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

3rd Tuesday of each month @the Taraval Police Station 2345 24th Ave, unless otherwise posted.

Visit: www.taraval.org for time & location

The OceanView Branch Library has opened up as of July 20th, Tuesdays thru Saturdays 10:00am to 5:30pm.

SISTERHOOD GARDENS

Located @ north-east corner of Brotherhood & Arch. Garden build day schedule:

Sun. August 1, 2021 Summer Family Day, 1:00-3:00pm
 Sat. August 14, 2021 Build Day, 10:00am-1:00pm
 Sat. September 11, 2021 Build Day, 10:00am-1:00pm
 Sat. October 16, 2021 Build Day, 10:00am-1:00pm
 Sat. November 13, 2021 Build Day, 10:00am-1:00pm

SPECIAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

A complete updated list of information is available at metna.org. The 4 page list is updated each month.

JOIN METNA

METNA OFFICERS

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 Marc Christensen
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 415 585-2465
christensen.marc@metna@gmail.com

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 Glen Hatakeyama
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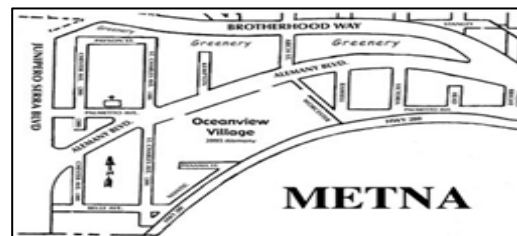
Sargeant at Arms
 Sue Harless
 79 Kempton Ave
 415 347-7361

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

Executive Committee

Eric Berquist
 233 Chester Ave
 415 939-2377

Neil Hunt
 239 St. Charles
 415 308-3486



H MART A HUGE SUCCESS AT OCEAN VIEW VILLAGE

Hmart opened on April 21st at OceanView Village. Since day-one the 41,000 sq. ft. supermarket has been a major success for Hmart and the shoppers it serves. The Korean-American supermarket not only offers Korean products but also caters to a variety of customers as it offers different tastes and shopping preferences.

A *New York Times* 3-page article in the food section on May 12, 2021 highlighted Hmart, titled "The Lure of Hmart," explains the story of "A large grocery chain that's revolutionized the way many Asian-Americans shop and eat offers an enduring cultural connection, especially now."

Long lines to enter were common during the first two months, as Covid-19 Health Department restrictions limited the number of shoppers in the store at any one time. Since June 15 with the restrictions eased, lines are only seen during peak shopping times.

A new Hmart App can now be downloaded. It provides easy access to weekly deals and flash sales much easier and faster. Customers can also find more than 100 recipes on the App.

METNA, working with Hmart, insisted that large 18-wheel trucks (actually all delivery vehicles), turn off their engines while in the parking lot waiting to enter the loading dock, for the safety and health of OceanView Village residents. For the most part, the drivers have complied. If you notice that policy not being followed, please let Hmart's store manager know of your concerns. It is a violation to keep engines idling when waiting.

Reminder: Shopping carts are not to leave the parking lot area. If you need to lug more than one bag home, bring your own cart, or ask someone to help you carry your groceries. It is not okay to take the cart to your home and return it later.

Store hours at Hmart remain 8:00am to 9:00pm daily.



Produce section at H Mart

Emergency supplies from page 2
Workplace Kit - that will allow you to get to your home or reunification site

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Small amount of water and food
- Current medication (if needed)
- Money
- Flashlight (with same size extra batteries)
- Possible change of extra clothes (if storage space allows)
- Contact information, including reunification plans
- A small duffel bag, backpack or grip type small suitcase

The above items are not a complete list, but rather a guideline to provide a checklist for each person's health and safety during an extended emergency. Add your own list of potential items to meet your needs. The key is to be prepared for any emergency.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

PALMETTO IS FINALLY REPAVED

After more than six years of requests by METNA and independently by neighbors, the 600 block of Palmetto, from St. Charles to Juipero Serra finally received a new asphalt roadway. Part of the wait was the long delay by PG&E to replace gas lines in the neighborhood. The roadway was repaved the week of May 17th to the delight of neighbors.

BEEHIVES ADDED TO SISTERHOOD GARDENS

In early May, two brightly colored beehives were placed in the tree orchard hillside at Sisterhood Gardens. Signage at the entrances notify those entering that beehives are located on the garden property. Master beekeeper Bill will answer questions regarding the beehives at: info@planetbee.org.

POSTAL RATES TO RISE IN LATE AUGUST

The United States Postal Service (USPS) will be raising postal rates on mail beginning August 29th. The price increases are intended to plug a gap of a \$160 billion projected operating loss over the next decade.

Currently a first class postage stamp is 55 cents and will increase to 58 cents. A post card will rise to 40 cents from 36 cents, and an international letter will increase by a dime, from \$1.20 to \$1.30. Your hedge on inflation is to purchase "Forever" stamps prior to the rate increase.

Along with the increased prices, service and delivery times are slated for change. Reduced post office hours are planned, along with the

consolidation of sites. None have been announced as of now. Promised delivery dates will be increased from three days to five days for the continental United States, as there will be less use of airplanes to carry the mail to postal hubs throughout the U.S.

The Merced Extension Triangle has only one blue mail collection box in the neighborhood, on the north-west corner of St. Charles and Alemany. It is imperative that that box, serviced once a day Monday through Saturday, remains. On September 1, 2011 the only other blue collection box at Ramsell and Alemany was removed by the USPS Manager of Collections for what was

described as "lack of daily mail being placed in the box." According to USPS, in 2000 there were 360,000 blue collection boxes nationwide. That number appears to be under 150,000 in 2021. Between 2006 and 2011, approximately one-third of the blue collection boxes were removed from San Francisco street corners, with a corresponding drop of 42% of the mail collected from the boxes.

Then, in January, 2020, XM Global Express (formerly PostNet), at OceanView Village **cont'd on page 4**

JOIN METNA

28R & 57 con't from page 1

San Francisco State and Lowell High School. The line running down Brotherhood Way and serving not only 800 Summit, but the schools and churches along Brotherhood Way, plus also Lake Merced Hill, is slated to be eliminated. A new line, the 58, would pick up service on John Muir Drive., and then travel south on Lake Merced Blvd. to the Westlake Shopping Center, then up John Daly Blvd., past Daly City BART, to the Top of the Hill in Daly City.

Recently in early July, METNA was informed that the 57 would be rerouted and make a stop at Arch & Alemany, to serve OceanView Village and specifically Hmart. Then, the 57 would travel west on Aemany to St. Charles, make a left on to St. Charles to Daly City BART. The residents on St. Charles and surrounding blocks have generated a petition requesting that the 57-Parkmerced not be rerouted on St. Charles, but rather travel over the Alemany Bridge and follow its previous route on the Junipero Serra off ramp to John Daly Blvd. to Daly City BART. No final decision has been made by SFMTA as the METNA News goes to press.

In mid-May some Muni lines were restored, including the K-Ingleside, N-Judah, and T-Third Muni Metro lines. The L-Taraval and M-Oceanview currently remain bus lines, with transfers required at West Portal and Ulloa to head to and from downtown. The May service restorations were a step in the right direction, but residents and shopping districts in the south-west corner of San Francisco deserve the same level of service afforded other areas of the City. At the same time Supervisors suggested a "Free Muni," however, that proposal was vetoed by the mayor.

**EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT
CONDITIONS PREVAIL**

For the second year in a row, rainfall in Northern California was extremely low. San Francisco yearly rain totals this year were much less than last year, with 8.91 inches of rainfall July 1 to June 30 this year as compared to 12.06 last year. The seasonal normal stands at 23.65, but trending downward.

According to the Golden Gate Weather Services, reported by the *Chronicle*, the Bay Area received only 9.88 inches of rain during the 12-month period ending on June 30. That figure was 39% of normal, which was the lowest total in 130 years of record keeping.

On July 1, the Bay Area went from "extreme drought" to "exceptional drought"—the highest category on record. Ironically, on July 1, slight drizzle covered the Merced Extension Triangle (MET) with 0.2 inches of precipitation falling in a 24-hour period.

In the MET 11.4 inches of rain fell from August 15 to April 24, the first and last measurable rainfall for the season, compared to 16.4 inches last year.

The month-by-month breakdown in the MET showed 0.2 inches in August (Aug. 15), no measurable rain in September, nor October, and just 0.7 inches in November. December came in at 2.7 inches, with January, 2021 at 3.3 (in which 2.5 inches came in a 7-day period, January 22-29). Only 2.4 inches of rain fell in February, 1.9 inches in March, and after March 19 only one day of rain, 0.2 inches on April 24th. No measurable rain fell in May or June.

JOIN METNA

**SEND \$20 TO
TREASURER RICH ZERGA
1095 CLAYTON ST.
SF 94117**

Two consecutive years of drier than normal rain has left Northern California and part of the West now in exceptional drought conditions.

**BART SERVICE TO INCREASE
AUGUST 2ND**

BART will return to near pre-pandemic service on August 2nd, instead of August 30th as originally planned. Late night limited train service returned on July 15 leaving downtown San Francisco at 11:30pm, serving nine stations on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, with more service changes scheduled for August 2nd.

On August 2, BART service will run from 5:00am to midnight on weekdays, starting at 6:00am on Saturdays, and with Sunday service remaining at current times, 8:00am to 9:00pm. Weekday frequencies are to move to 15 minute intervals on weekdays until 8:00pm.

BART states that they will offer 50% discounts on Clipper Cards in September as an incentive to get riders to return. Masks continue to be required on all transit agencies until further notice.

For a complete list of service times use the BART app or the BART website at updates@info.bart.gov.

METNA MEETING

7:00pm, TUESDAY, August 10, 2021, Via Zoom, for current METNA members only. The Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association (METNA) again will present a virtual Zoom meeting over the internet. This meeting will be open to current METNA members (those who have paid dues for 2021), who wish to join the meeting. A complete list of "Invited Guests" appears on page one. To join the meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 7:00pm, contact Vice President Glen Hatakeyama by August 8 for a link to the meeting. Glen will send the link out to METNA members who have a valid e-mail address on file, by August 8th. Join the meeting no earlier than 6:55pm on August 10.

Postal Rates from page 3

was forced to close in a rental dispute with the shopping center owners. As a result, the only other postal drop-off site in the MET was eliminated. If you are lucky enough to catch a postal carrier in the neighborhood on a given day, that person will gladly take your outgoing mail. Otherwise use the only remaining blue box at St. Charles and Alemany. The old adage still applies: "Use it, or lose it." Outdated pickup times on the box list Monday - Friday at 12:15pm, and Saturday at 9:15am.

And while you are at it, say "Thank you" to your postal carrier who currently delivers mail six days a week to your residence.

METNA REMINDERS

**SFPUC REQUESTS WATER
CONSERVATION**

This is the second year in a row with very little rainfall in the Bay Area or snow in the mountains. As a result, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, SF-Water, (SFPUC-Water) requests residents and businesses to cut back on their water use.

SFPUC offers personalized water-wise consultations to assist customers with questions about water consumption, leaks, indoor, and outdoor conservation. There is an ongoing program that replaces water-wasting toilets with new ones free, and with free installation, along with low flow showerheads. Now is the time to apply.

A little less use of water by everyone will allow supplies to last longer. Learn more at sfpuc.org/savewater.

**PATRONIZE SUBWAY &
EXTREME PIZZA**

The two mainstays of Ocean View Village retail remain Subway and Extreme Pizza. It is important that neighborhood residents support our local businesses.