

# The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

Volume 23 Number 3

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

May 2023

## A RAINY SEASON IN SAN FRANCISCO BUT NOTHING LIKE 1862

This season 14.8 inches of rain fell in the MET from December 26, 2022 through January 16, 2023, with seven atmospheric river storms off the Pacific Ocean, along with a “bomb cyclone” with gale force winds. This brought major destruction throughout California. Parts of San Francisco recorded 5.46 inches of rain on December 31<sup>st</sup> alone. The Merced Extension Triangle total for New Year’s eve 24-hour period was 4.85 inches. It was the second wettest day in the city’s history, dating back to 1858.

In relationship to this year’s rain totals to date, the “Great Flood of 1862,” where over 4,000 California residents lost their lives (approximately 1% of the state’s population at the time), was the major rain event. In December 1861, San Francisco records indicate that 10 inches of rain fell, followed by 24 inches of rain in January, 1862, where 19.77 inches hit San Francisco between January 5<sup>th</sup> and January 19<sup>th</sup>. Of course, in those days San Francisco was much smaller and the area west of Twin Peaks was mostly sand dunes, and our area was barren land with the beginnings of a cattle pasture on what was then called Rancho San Miguel.

10.55 inches of rain fell in the MET in December 2022. January 2023 saw 8.90 inches of rain with February coming in at 4.15 inches, bringing the season total at the end of February to 25.90 inches.

A very rainy March inundated much of Northern California, including San Francisco and our MET. Rain fell every day from March 4 through March 14, with the seasonal total reaching 30.0 in the MET on March 14<sup>th</sup>. March 19<sup>th</sup> recorded 1.15 inches and then came the afternoon and evening of March 21<sup>st</sup>.

On March 21, sustained wind gusts above 60 mph hit the western portions of San Francisco, including the Merced Extension Triangle. The weather service described the event as a “bomb cyclone” and the fourteenth “atmospheric river” hitting the Bay Area during the rain season, beginning on July 1, 2022. Power went out in a large swath of the area around 3:30pm, closing Hmart and Chase Bank. A few blocks along the north side of Alemany as well as surrounding blocks had power restored by 7:30pm, but power remained out at OceanView Village until 9:32am on Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1.2 inches of rain fell in the MET in a 24-hour period, 6:00am March 21, to 6:00am on March 22.

March rainfall totals in the MET show 7.95 inches (6.99 inches in downtown S.F.), bringing the season total as of March 31<sup>st</sup> to 33.85 inches in the Merced Extension Triangle (32.72 inches in downtown S.F.). The recent March storms took down many trees and large branches throughout the area, especially along Brotherhood Way, and in the Greenbelt Dog Park, at Alemany and Victoria.

Climate change experts say will make extreme weather conditions more likely in the future, both with more precipitation and also higher temperatures.

## JOIN METNA

### METNA MEETING

Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
7:00pm, at Palmetto Meeting Hall  
640 Palmetto Avenue  
(between St. Charles and Chester)

#### Invited Guests

Brooke Jenkins, District Attorney  
City & County of San Francisco

Myrna Melgar, Dist. 7 Supervisor  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Captain Maura Pengel  
Acting Captain  
Taraval Station, SFPD

Adrienne Bechelli, Deputy Director  
Division of Emergency Services  
Department of Emergency Management

Casey Hildreth,  
Project Manager, SFMTA

### ALL NEIGHBORS WELCOME

Face masks are recommended for the METNA meeting but are not required at this time.

## BROTHERHOOD WAY PLAN UPDATE

The Brotherhood Way Active Transportation and Open Space Plan, according to San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) planner David Long is still working through the contracting process. “Contracting is moving more slowly than we had hoped. We should be able to begin in early summer.” Long states “The project was developed to respond to community concerns that have been raised in a variety of venues about the need for pedestrian and traffic safety improvements specifically at the intersection of Brotherhood/Orizaba/Alemany/Sagamore. The SFMTA will design near-term improvements, as opposed to the SFCTA’s study which will consider longer-term concepts for a wider study area.”

David Long further states “We are still early in the study process. We are procuring consultant support for both community outreach and technical analysis. Once a consultant is on board, we will kick off our first round of community engagement which will focus on identifying community needs. The SFCTA is working with the District 7 and District 11 (Supervisor) offices on Community Working Group composition. METNA will be represented on the Working Group. There will be numerous opportunities for all community members to provide input needs, priorities, and concepts through three rounds of community engagement.”

Casey Hildreth, SFMTA’s project manager, has been invited to attend the Tuesday, May 9 METNA Neighborhood Meeting to give residents an update on the early stages of the project plan.

## METNA REGIONAL SERVICE NUMBERS

*METNA's annual service numbers. Phone numbers do change. Numbers were in service as of April, 2023. All numbers are area code 1+ 415, unless otherwise noted.*

**Emergency: 911** (from cell phone: in San Francisco: 911, or in/out SF: 553-8090)

**Police, Non-emergency: 553-0123**

**Human Services Hotline: 211**, (direct service link M-F, 9:30a-5:00p)

**SF Customer Service Line: 311**, (TTY: 701-2323), (outside S.F.: 701-2311)

**Telephone Information (Directory Assistance): 411**

**Transportation Hotline: 511**

**Telephone Repair, AT&T: 611**

**California relay for hearing impaired: 711**

**Underground Service Alert (USA) locating utilities: 811**

**Suicide Prevention: 988**

Anonymous Tip Line: (Taraval Station) 242-9753; (General) 575-4444

Animal bites to report: 554-9422

Animal Care & Control: 554-6364; Emergency: 554-9400

BART Customer Service: 510-464-7134

BART Lost and Found Line: 510-464-7090

BART Police: Emergency: 510-464-7000; Non-emergency: 877-679-7000

BART Transit Information: 989-2278

Bay Area Air Quality Management District: 800-334-6367

Bee Swarms (police non-emergency, info on beekeepers): 553-0123

City Attorney, David Chiu, office: 554-4700 / Hotline: 554-3977

City Attorney, Services/Code Enforcement: Christopher Whitman: 554-4240

CleanPowerSF, Customer Service: 554-0773

Clipper Card, registration/information: 877-878-8883

Crime Stoppers (Anonymous): 553-9755

District Attorney, office: 628-652-4000

District Attorney, Victim services: 553-9044

Emergency Services Management, (Dept. of): 558-3800

Emergency Services, Office of Disaster Preparedness: 558-2700

Fire Department, Non-emergency: 861-8000 or 558-3300

Garbage pickup/ Trash not emptied (Sunset Scavenger/Recology): 330-1300

Graffiti, Police Report Hotline: 278-9454

Hazardous Waste Disposal: 355-3777

Homeless Outreach Team, (SFHOT) 24-hour service line: Urgent 355-7445,

Non-urgent 355-7401, Office 355-7555

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services: 554-5975

Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development: 554-6969

MET Community Connectors: Laura Atkins, 341-4713

Mosquito activity, reporting: 252-3806

Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT): 970-2022

P. G. & E.: 24 hour service: 800-743-5000; Outage: 800-743-5002

Pets, lost hotline: 567-8738

Poison Center: 476-6600 or 476-2845, 800-222-1222

Public Health: Code Enforcement/Environmental Resource: 252-3872

Residential Permit Parking: 701-3000 or 554-5000

Resilient MET; Glen Hatakeyama, Chair: 333-0197

SamTrans Information: 800-660-4289

SF Municipal Transportation Agency: 701-2311 (311)

SF SAFE: 673-7233 or 553-1984

Spare the Air Alert: 877-466-2876

Suicide Prevention: 24 hours, 781-0500; S.F. Mobile Crisis: 355-8300;

National: 800-273-8255

Supervisor Myrna Melgar, District 7: 554-6516

**Taraval Police Station: 759-3100 or 553-1612**

Captain Robert Yick; Taraval Captain's Clerk: 759-3113

Code Enforcement Officer & Permit Officer: 759-3123

Taraval Lieutenant's Office: Day and Night Platoon Commanders: 759-

3102

Trash/hazardous waste on private property, M-F, 8:am-5:pm: 252-3800;

voice 252-38

Water, Power, Sewer Emergencies: 923-2400 or 551-3000, 24 hours: 550-

4911

West Nile Virus hotline: 877-968-2473

**COVID-19 Information: Text COVID19SF to 888-777 for official updates**

**\*\* CONTINUE TO CALL: 311: to connect to all City Services \*\***

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

**SISTERHOOD GARDENS EVENTS**

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

Brotherhood & Arch

Sat. May 13th, Natural Dye Wrksp 10:00-11:00pm

Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>, Family Day 11:00-1:00 pm

Sat. June 6<sup>th</sup>, Volunteer Build Day, 10:00-1:00pm

**MET COMMUNITY CONNECTORS**

**@ Golden Gate Church of Christ Community Room**

**Corner of Upper Palmetto & Head**

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

Tuesdays, 11:00am-12:noon Social Hour (w/ activities)

## JOIN METNA

### METNA OFFICERS

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

Secretary  
 Eric Bergquist  
 233 Chester Ave.  
 415 939-2377  
 ericafton@gmail.com

Sergeant at Arms  
 James Lee  
 8200 Oceanview  
 Terr. #121  
 202 763-0494

Vice President  
 Glen Hatakeyama  
 207 Chester Ave.  
 415 333-0197  
 ragtime217@  
 gmail.com

Treasurer  
 Sue Harless  
 79 Kempton Ave  
 415 347-7361

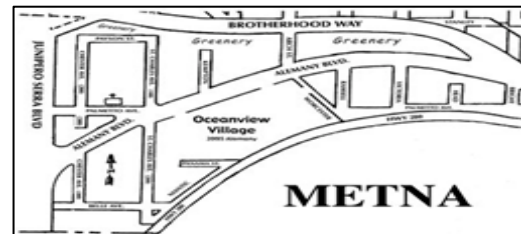
Neighborhood  
 Improvement  
 Claire Sanchez  
 3990 Alemany Blvd  
 415 334-3700  
 claire@sailawaynow.  
 com

### Executive Committee

Joan Broer  
 3981 Alemany Blvd #108  
 415 347-3188

Neil Hunt  
 235 St. Charles  
 415 308-3486

Ted Pudlik  
 3934 Alemany Blvd  
 626 254-3218



## WESTLAKE SHOPPING CENTER SOON TO DEVELOP NEW HOUSING

Built in the late 1940's and early 1950's, by real estate developer Henry Doelger, Westlake and the Westlake Shopping Center began to take shape just south of the San Francisco County line in north-western San Mateo County. The Westlake housing and commercial development was annexed to Daly City by a public vote on November 2, 1948.

Alemaný Boulevard (now named John Daly Blvd.) which then stretched past Junipero Serra Blvd. west to Skyline Blvd. became the two lane road where the Westlake Town and Country Shopping Center would be built to the south, at Lake Merced Boulevard beginning in October of 1950. The opening of the first business was the Westlake Town and Country Food Center on April 20, 1951. While the Westlake Center expanded over the next few years, it was then considered to be the Bay Area's most complete one-stop shopping center with a 3,000 car parking area.

Over the years the Westlake Shopping Center has changed owners. In 1965 James Trevor purchased the Westlake Shopping Center from Henry Doelger. More recently in 2002 Kimco Realty Corporation announced their purchase and plan to redevelop the Westlake Shopping Center. The center received a makeover with a center thoroughfare splitting the shopping center into an east and a west segment. A major shift occurred in the early 2000's with the closure of J.C. Penny Store at the south-west corner of the Westlake Shopping Center and the reconstruction of the site for Home Depot.

Now, Kimco plans to turn the once Burlington Coat Factory site at the southern end into a 214-unit apartment complex. Kimco hopes to have up to 400 apartments on site and still have room for 11,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space. The new development will certainly not be to the scale of Brookfield Properties at Stonestown, but it will transform the southern edge of their property and give all retailers many new customers once completed within a few years. No timetable has been given for the redevelopment.

## WILL THE LONG DELAYED "LAKE MERCED WEST" SITE FINALLY BE MOVING FORWARD?

In January 2023, final environmental approval was given to the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department to turn the former Pacific Rod and Gun Club area, on the western shore of Lake Merced, into an 11-acre recreation area for the public. The area on John Muir Drive is owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission yet is managed by the Rec & Park Department in an original 1950 agreement.

The cleanup of the former Pacific Rod and Gun Club (PRGC) was first reported in the November 2012 METNA News. However, the PRGC continued to lease the site on a month-to-month basis for the next two years. The site closed in 2015. Over the next two years, 88,000 tons of contaminated soil was removed from the site and lake.

By October 2016, the Rec and Park Commission approved a \$2.6 million plan to transform the 11-acre site into a three phase recreational facility, with "an emphasis on water sports and fishing."

Originally reported in the February 2017 METNA News, a 20-year lease was given to a concessionaire-developer. The first phase was to include a kayak and paddleboard house, docks, public restrooms, and a parking area "to be completed in 2018." In phase two and three, a gazebo and picnic area would be developed, and then a bird observatory, bocce ball courts, and a fishing pier were "to be added by 2020." There was also talk of a large multi-purpose structure that could be rented by the public for events. The concessionaire-developer backed out of the deal several years ago, while the land has remained as a storage area and basically a Recreation and Park dump site since.

The new proposal named Lake Merced West is taking shape and will include community meetings to allow for public input. No dates have been set for meetings as Rec and Park looks for a new joint developer.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

### JUNIPERO SERRA ROAD WORK

Construction along Junipero Serra Blvd. began in February with only minimal lane closures and virtually no traffic delays. The inclement weather of the past three months have led to minimal work stoppages. Construction will continue throughout the year.

### LPGA EVENT AT HARDING PARK IN MAY

The Hanwha International Crown, an 8-team, 32 player event on the LPGA tour will be held at Harding Park. The event will be the first women's professional golf tournament ever held at Harding. Eight countries will be represented by women's foursomes. The PGA returns to San Francisco in 2028, across the lake at the Olympic Club.

Traffic may be slightly impacted along Lake Merced Blvd, John Muir Drive and Skyline Blvd. during the four-day event May 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

### H-MART EXPANSION

Hmart had their Formula Retail Conditional Use neighborhood meeting on March 21. Plans have been submitted to the Planning Department. The permitting process may take up to six months or more before any construction can take place. The plan is to have housewares & dry goods moved from the current location in the store to the new location, just to the west of the current entrance at the former 24-Hour Fitness site. The best case scenario is that Hmart's expansion will take up to a year to complete. Updated information will appear in the upcoming METNA Newsletters.

### 7 LEAVES CAFÉ

The opening of 7 Leaves Café is still months away. According to Alex Anderman, principal owner, 7 Leaves Café is in the final stages of the permitting process. Once permitting is complete, the buildout should take about 10 weeks. Right now 7 Leaves is looking at a possible August or September opening.

### A T & T RETAIL STORE

A Formula Retail Conditional Use neighborhood meeting was held on April 12 at the project site, 3911 Alemany Blvd., Suites 1002 & 1003, at OceanView Village. The proposed 1,691 sq. ft. AT&T retail store must go through the same permitting process as the other tenants. There is no projected timeline for the permitting process or the opening of the AT&T retail store at this time.

### WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE PROPOSED

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is proposing to update its water and sewer rates effective July 1. The new rate schedule represents approximately an 8.3% increase per residential household per year over the next several years.

A public hearing on the proposed water and sewer rates will take place at the S.F. Public Utilities Commission Meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 1:30pm at S.F. City Hall, Room 400. For more info, go to [sfpub.org/2023Rates](http://sfpub.org/2023Rates) or call 415-554-3289.

## A LOOK BACK AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD 60+ YEARS AGO

-Kempton Avenue & the neighborhood, as remembered  
by Carol McCreedy Thollander

I moved with my family to 78 Kempton Avenue in the summer of 1958. It was a great block and neighborhood to live in as an almost teenager. When we moved in, there was no 280 freeway and no multi-lane Brotherhood Way. Alemany Blvd. was a busy thoroughfare since it connected industrial southeast San Francisco along highway 101 with residential southwestern San Francisco, and San Mateo County. There were lots of trucks on Alemany, and as 11- and 12- year-olds we would stand on the corner of Alemany and Kempton and signal the big rig drivers to blow their air horns. They always complied.

On the other side of Alemany, where Oceanview Village is now, were acres of glass greenhouses belonging to the California Evergreen Nursery. But staying on our side of Alemany we would spend our free time riding our bikes or roller skating from Arch to St. Charles, then St. Charles to Payson, along Payson and up Chester to Palmetto. One of our more daring stunts was to start at Arch and Alemany on our bikes. One person would be stationed as a lookout at the bottom of Arch Street where it crossed Stanley Drive (now Brotherhood Way). The other two or three on their bikes would wait for the "clear" signal and then zoom down Arch in order to get as far up the other side as possible before we had to pedal hard to get to the top at Randolph St. Randolph was a busy commercial street in the 1950's and 1960's. There were many small businesses and mid-size food markets. Technically some of the businesses were on the very last blocks of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Some of our favorite places to ride our bikes or walk to were Mr. Coffee's Variety Store, where we would purchase packets of Trading Cards as well as other fun and inexpensive items for our entertainment.

Norman's Liquors (which is still on the corner of St. Charles where Randolph begins) was our favorite place to buy candy and gum. If we were getting off the M-Oceanview streetcar after school, we would stop at Norman's for candy, then run down St. Charles, continue across the gully and up the foot path on the other side. There we would leave the path and cut through the gully to the dead-end at the bottom of Kempton. Other times we would walk up St. Charles to see who we might run into of the many kids living on that street.

The neighborhood was full of families with kids of all ages. Kempton alone had between 12 and 18 kids counting a few of those who lived on Alemany. Team sports took place in the street with the man-hole cover being home plate for kickball. Often there would be games and competitions between those living on different streets. St. Charles and Kempton were the strongest of adversaries and the gully (south side of Stanley Drive) was the place of choice for these games.

In the late 1960's California Evergreen Nursery was sold and developers tore down the greenhouses. By 1967 a new shopping center opened with an Albertson's Supermarket, and the largest Payless Drug Store in the chain. My sister got a job at Payless working in the extensive camera department, when we were both attending San Francisco State College. Kempton Avenue was very conveniently located.

My connection with Kempton remained active and strong as my father lived there until his death in 2011, at almost 99 years of age. My second sister and her young daughter lived down the street from my dad for several years, and when she left our long-time friend bought her house and became a very active and important member of the community.

I know other congenial residents on Kempton because of my dad and my sister. It was and still is a great street to live on.

## METNA REMINDER

### COYOTE SIGHTINGS HAVE INCREASED IN THE AREA

Coyotes remain part of our urban landscape. Animal Care and Control, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, and METNA want you, your family and pets to be safe and prevent conflict when you encounter a coyote. Sightings have increased in the Merced Extension Triangle, especially along the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt, as well as in and around Lake Merced.

Pup rearing season runs from April to August. It is during this time that adult coyotes can be aggressive towards adults, children, and pets. Here a few reminders of what to do to avoid interaction with coyotes:

#### Keep coyotes at a distance:

- 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. All wild animals will be attracted to any food left outside.
- Tightly secure garbage, recycling, and composting bins. Store bins inside until the evening prior to collection day. Do not overload with the lid open.
- When composting, use well-secured bins. Do not add meat, dairy or egg products.
- Remove all fallen fruit from any fruit tree on your property.
- If a coyote frequents your yard, consider installing motion activated lights. You can also add reflective mylar or rolling pvc to the top of your fence.

• Trim under bushes to prevent coyotes from staying on your property. Also secure crawl spaces under porches and sheds.

#### Keep your domestic animals safe:

- Do not let your dog(s) interact with a coyote in any way, including chasing or playing.
- Keep your dog under control at all times. Use a leash even in off leash areas if you cannot keep your dog under voice control.
- If you walk your dog at dawn or dusk in a coyote area, keep a short leash and be aware of your surroundings.

• Avoid areas where coyotes may be denning, feeding, or hiding their pups.

#### When encountering a coyote:

- If a coyote approaches you, make eye contact, wave your arms, make noise, blow a whistle. You are encouraged to 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 when outdoors.

**Further reminder:** *It is illegal to feed wildlife* (San Francisco Parks Code 5.07 & San Francisco Police Code, Section 486).