

The METNA News

Newsletter of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association

Volume 24 Number 2

Visit us at: metna.org

February 2024

SFCTA'S BROTHERHOOD WAY SAFETY & CIRCULATION PLAN

San Francisco County Transportation Authority's (SFCTA) David Long and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA) Casey Hildreth attended the November 14, 2023 METNA Neighborhood Meeting, giving preliminary details on SFCTA's Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation Plan, and SFMTA's Brotherhood Way/Alemany Safety Improvements Project (BASIP).

David Long gave details on the Round One outreach events, an online survey taking place November 17th through December 26th, with a December 6th Online Town Hall, and a December 16th Neighborhood Walk. Casey Hildreth explained that the BASIP project will coincide with SFCTA's plan, much of which will coordinate SFMTA's plan at the intersection of Brotherhood, Alemany, Orizaba, and Sagamore.

In an unrelated project, SFMTA, through a FY2021 Walkfirst project, plans to install a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at the same four-way intersection from the eastern half of the north leg, across the roadway from westbound Sagamore Street to westbound Brotherhood Way. That project is at least six months to a year away from installation.

Regarding the Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation Plan which includes Alemany Boulevard and St. Charles Avenue, input was taken from the public between November 17 and December 26. An online meeting was held and a neighborhood walk-through was held in early December soliciting input from interested residents.

In the online meeting, SFCTA staff gave informative information regarding the study area, and then had a breakout session where individuals were able to focus on various intersections giving their experiences.

Close to two-dozen neighborhood residents met on Saturday, December 16th to walk throughout the study area looking to improve safety features at five intersections including St. Charles-Belle/Niantic; St. Charles/Palmetto-Alemany; Alemany-Arch; Alemany-Brotherhood-Sagamore-Orizaba; Brotherhood-Arch; as well as spots in between. Also included was a possible pedestrian signal crossing on Brotherhood Way from the north side, near the playground, to the south side, near the dog park. Residents contributed to discussions regarding pedestrian/bicycle safety, and how to improve traffic flow, while reducing vehicle accidents in the study area.

David Long, SFCTA planner, led the group of support staff and facilitators, along with Daniela Rible (SFCTA), and Casey Hildreth (SFMTA), plus members from Fehr & Peers, and D & A Communications, coordinating work with SFCTA.

METNA executive officers Eric Bergquist, Joan Broer, Marc Christensen, Sue Harless, Neil Hunt, James Lee, and Claire Sanchez participated in the study area walk, contributing to the discussions in Round One Engagement.

WIDE SUPPORT FOR SPEED SURVEILLANCE CAMERA AT ALEMANY & ST. CHARLES

It was announced in October that at least 33 cameras will be installed around San Francisco, most likely sometime later this year, to catch and ticket speeding drivers. This comes about as Gov. Gavin Newsom has legalized their use in a traffic safety bill, California State Assembly Bill 645, allowing six cities, including San Francisco to pilot speed cameras with the highest crash rates.

The law states that the cameras should be placed in high risk areas, such as in locations with a history of vehicle accidents, pedestrian injuries, and where sideshows occur. The perfect location for one such camera, to be mounted high on a pole on the west side median of Alemany and St. Charles (facing east, through the intersection), has been advocated for several years by the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association and residents who live within a block of that location. Numerous cars each hour speed through the intersection, do not stop at the stop sign, fail to yield to pedestrians, and bicyclists, as St. Charles is a designated bicycle route to and from Daly City BART. There is also a blue mail collection box on the north-west corner of Alemany, St. Charles, and Palmetto, serving many residents who must cross the intersection to mail a letter. This intersection is also part of a safety study occurring now by the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, under the title "Brotherhood Way & St. Charles Safety and Circulation Plan."

Support has come from Supervisor Myrna Melgar, Taraval Police Captains' past and present, merchants at OceanView Village, as well as many members of the community.

The camera would be placed on a pole that would only capture activity in the intersection and the 3900 block of Alemany and would not be invasive on any property along the route.

METNA MEETING

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

Invited Guests

Fiona Ma
California State Treasurer

David Chiu, City Attorney
Chris Whitman, Deputy City Attorney
City & County of San Francisco

Myrna Melgar, D7 Supervisor
S.F. Board of Supervisors

Brien Hoo, Captain
Taraval Station
San Francisco Police Department

ALL NEIGHBORS WELCOME

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

NEW TRANSIT INFORMATION FOR MUNI & BART RIDERS

MUNI RIDERS NEED NEW APP TO BUY FARE TICKETS

In early December, Muni riders were notified that they need to download a newly released version of the Muni app when purchasing fare tickets. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) stated that riders as of January 15, 2024, could no longer use the original Muni Mobile app due to the changing of vendors.

SFMTA stated that the new app, called Muni Mobile 2 app must be created with a new account. Muni Mobile 2 is available in the Apple store and Google Play for smart phones. According to SFMTA the new app will provide "enhanced trip planning, service alerts, and real-time transit predictions," along with offering mobile ticketing.

The Clipper Card is still universally accepted on Muni as well as on all other transit agencies in the Bay Area.

Please use your due diligence when looking into using this new app as METNA cannot be responsible for the accuracy of information contained in this article.

NEW BART FARES AS OF JANUARY 2024

A modest fare increase and a deeper discount for Clipper START, for low-income riders went into effect on January 1, 2024. The Clipper START, (accepted by more than 20 regional transit agencies), was reduced from 20% off to 50% off the regular fare on BART. However, fares increased by 5.5% at the beginning of this year for all other riders.

For example, a ride from Daly City to Civic Center on BART rose from \$3.65 to \$3.85 using the regular Clipper Card, Clipper Senior/Disabled Card, \$1.35 to \$1.40, Youth Clipper from \$1.80 to \$1.90, while the Clipper START Card dropped from \$2.90 to \$1.90. New fare decals are now posted at vending machines, so that riders may see the new fares.

The fare changes were approved by BART's Board of Directors in June. BART's Inflation-Based Fare Program, which has been in place since 2003, would have required an 11% fare increase in January 2024. Instead, the BART Board directed staff to increase the fare by 5.5% now, and the additional 5.5% in January 2025, so as "to cushion the economic impact on riders," and obviously to lure riders back to the system. The new fee structure also reduces the cost for low-income riders.

New fare gates are being installed in stations within the system in 2024 to protect against fare evasion. The plan is to have new fare gates installed throughout the system before the end of 2025. The fare increases are expected to bring in an additional \$26 million in operating funds through FY2025.

BART discounts include: Youth 5-18 years old get 50% off, Seniors and passengers under 65 with qualifying disabilities get 62.5% off fares, and Low-income riders who qualify (earning 200% or less of the federal poverty level) get 50% off fares. BART also offers a "High Value Discount" Adult Clipper card with a 6.25% discount on cash value rides by buying \$48 worth of value for \$45, or \$64 worth of value for \$60, when autoloan is set up. For more information go to updates@info.bart.gov, or call BART Transit Information at 415-989-2278.

TIME TO JOIN METNA

You are receiving the METNA News free of charge. The newsletter is published four times a year and distributed to every household within the METNA boundaries, to retail businesses, our local elected officials, and METNA members who live outside our boundaries.

Four times each year on the second Tuesday in February, May, August, and November we hold neighborhood association meetings, open to the public—members and non-members—to provide valuable information to our residents, reports on neighborhood projects, and with very informative guests covering a wide variety of topics. We also provide food and beverage after each meeting, free to all attendees.

METNA over the past twenty-four years has improved the safety, security, and quality of life in our neighborhood. Please consider joining *your* neighborhood association *Support METNA as we support you.* We look forward to your financial support, and we sincerely thank you.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

SISTERHOOD GARDENS' BUILD DAYS

Brotherhood & Arch

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

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Saturday, April 13, 2024

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-12:00 noon Social Hour

2024 NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION

(with Public Works) 9:00am - 12:00noon

Dist. 7: Saturday, April 13, 2024

Dist. 11: Saturday, June 22, 2024

Volunteers Needed

METNA OFFICERS

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

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

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

Treasurer
Sue Harless
79 Kempton Ave
415 347-7361

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

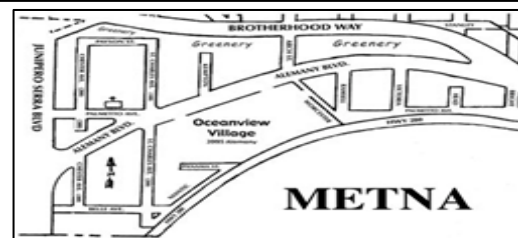
Neighborhood Improvement
Claire Sanchez
3990 Alemany Blvd
415 334-3700
claire@sailawaynow.
com

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



METNA COLLECTING DUES FOR 2024

Membership begins on February 1st each year.
 Membership levels are:
 MET residents/property owners \$20
 Associate members (non-voting, living outside the MET boundaries) \$20
 Business members (voting member) \$50
 Sponsor (voting member) \$100
 Benefactor (voting member) \$250

Make check payable to Merced Extension Triangle N.A.
 Send with name, address, telephone #, and e-mail address to: Sue Harless, Treasurer
 79 Kempton Avenue
 San Francisco, CA 94132

METNA thanks you for your support!

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY VOTING: TUES. MARCH 5, 2024

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Elections wants registered voters to know about your voting options on March 5, 2024. If you are registered with a political party preference, you will receive a ballot with that party's presidential candidates and County Central Committee members. If you are registered without a party preference, your ballot will not contain political party contests,

All ballots regardless of voter's party preference will list the following contests: U.S. Senator, U.S. House Representative, State Senator, State Assembly Member, Judges of the Superior Court, plus state and local ballot measures.

You have several ways to vote:

- 1. Vote early by mail.** In early February, the Department of Elections will send a vote-by-mail packet with a ballot, instructions, and a postage-paid return envelope.
- 2. Vote early at the City Hall Voting Center.** The voting center will be open February 5-March 4, Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm (except President's Day, February 19); February 24-25, and March 2-3, Saturday-Sunday, 10:00am-4:00pm; and on Election Day, Tuesday, March 5, 7:00am-8:00pm.

- 3. Vote at your polling place, Election Day, Tuesday, March 5.** The MET has two separate polling places based on your residential address. The polling site will be listed on your voting packet sent to you in early February. You need to register to vote or update your information such as party preference or change of address. Visit: registertovote.ca.gov. To check your voter file log into: sfelections.org/voter portal, or call 415-554-4375. Questions? Contact the multilingual staff: English: 415-554-4375; Spanish: 415-554-4366; Chinese: 415-554-4367; Filipino: 415-554-4310; TTY: 415-554-4386. Poll workers call: 415-554-4395.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

CLEANUP OF HEAD STREET STAIRS & WALL

METNA officers Joan Broer, Marc Christensen, Sue Harless, Glen Hatakeyama, Kim Mayor, and METNA member Glenn Rogers cleaned, weeded and spread mulch ground cover on the Head Street Stairs planted area. This was done as part of the District 7 Beautification Day on October 21, 2023. The METNA group joined Public Works employees to begin the restoration process of the hillside.

Public Works completed bush trimming and the planting of succulents on November 21. The stairs were power washed that removed dirt and grime that had accumulated over several months. Graffiti on the wall along Alemany Blvd. was removed earlier in the week leading up to the cleanup. More graffiti appeared within days of the cleanup project and Marc and Kim returned to paint over the graffiti which has become an ongoing problem. Also, METNA board member Neil Hunt and METNA member Stephen Joyner are painting out graffiti as it appears in various parts of the neighborhood, adding to our graffiti abatement crew, now numbering more than twelve neighborhood members.

Glenn Rogers submitted a Participatory Budget project through D7, for a mural on the wall which won voter approval last year. There is a lengthy city approval process that now must take place before a mural can be placed on the Alemany-Head Street Wall. Once all the agencies sign off on the project, it is hoped that a mural depicting native plants, flora and fauna, can be placed upon the current stark green wall, discouraging graffiti.

7 LEAVES CAFÉ OPENING SOON

Construction should be completed by mid-February and the Grand Opening is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 4th.

LAKE MERCED BLVD. QUICK BUILD PROJECT

Installation of new transportation safety improvements on Lake Merced Boulevard began on November 6, 2023. As part of the project, "No Parking - Tow Away Zone" signs went up on the east side of Lake Merced Blvd. from Higuera Avenue to Winston Drive, making the complete east side of Lake Merced Blvd. from John Muir Drive to Sunset Blvd, a no parking zone. New signage improved pedestrian crossing and signal improvements, along with a bicycle lane have been and will continue to be added over the coming months.

MAYOR'S MEASURE "SAFER SAN FRANCISCO" ON MARCH 5, 2024 BALLOT

A ballot measure by Mayor London Breed titled "Safer San Francisco" has been placed on the March 5th ballot. It is asking voters to approve an ordinance that would permit the police department to install and use publically owned surveillance cameras and deploy police guided drones to help catch suspects in various crimes. It would also ease restrictions on when police officers can chase suspects by car when criminals commit retail theft, vehicle theft, and auto burglaries, "so long as the pursuit can be done safely."

This ballot measure comes at a time when the number of police officers in San Francisco is down by approximately 30% of its optimal staffing levels. It also is set to reduce police officers' paperwork duties to allow more time on patrol.

Please read the ballot measure carefully. This is an informational item for the newsletter as METNA does not endorse candidates, propositions, or initiatives.

MAIL CARRIER ROBBERIES STILL PREVALENT IN BAY AREA

Thieves continue to target mail carriers throughout the Bay Area including San Francisco. This past year over thirty armed robberies have occurred in the nine Bay Area counties according to the United States Postal Service (USPS) officials. The target is not only mail being delivered, but also the mail box keys to residential complexes and postal collection boxes.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is charged with investigating mail crimes, stealing or possessing mail or a mail box key. It is a federal crime punishable by up to 10 years in federal prison.

If you see something suspicious or someone following a mail carrier, call 9-1-1 immediately, giving the location and description of the possible suspect, or if you have had mail or packages (delivered from USPS) stolen, then call the postal agency's 24-hour hotline at 877-876-2455. Go to usps.gov for more information.

A LOOK BACK AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD 60+ YEARS AGO

St. Charles & the neighborhood, as remembered
by Joseph Hurd

My parents and I moved from an apartment in the Western Addition to the 200 block of Saint Charles Avenue around 1964. I cannot imagine the pride my parents must have had in acquiring their first home. The first evening of being in our new home, the doorbell rings. Two of our neighbors' kids were at the door with a plate of homemade cookies. The son became one of my best friends and our families developed a great rapport.

The area, now referred to as the Merced Extension Triangle, was profoundly different. I attended St. Thomas More School and developed friends that lived throughout San Francisco. I had at least 50 friends that lived in my neighborhood. A group of us would walk to Lake Merced after school and catch rainbow trout, bass, and catfish and get back home before dark. A few of us still fish together to this day.

We played football and kickball daily in the streets. Everyone typically parked their family car inside their garages and it was rare to have more than 4 or 5 cars on both sides of the street the entire length of the block. We played sandlot baseball where the Daly City BART station is presently located. There was no BART, no Interstate 280, and no auto access to Daly City from Saint Charles Avenue. That whole area was undeveloped. We had a blast playing there. There was an outdoor basketball hoop at the end of Kempton Avenue, and it was not uncommon for three or four, 3-men teams waiting to play. The area below Kempton was called the "Gully" where some incredible football was routinely played.

The intersection of Alemany and St. Charles had no stop signs—hard to imagine now. We threw Frisbees there, virtually uninterrupted by traffic. We could hike to Lake Merced behind the churches along the golf course. We constructed a tree house that probably could have been considered a modern marvel. On Christmas, at least 20 to 25 kids could be found playing with toys on every block. My friends represented every imaginable ethnicity. Our diversity was our strength.

There were two large nurseries, one at the south end of Saint Charles (now the Daly City BART Parking Lot) and the other one at Alemany and Saint Charles (the California Evergreen Nursery) that eventually became the Albertsons/Payless Shopping Center. That center was way ahead of its time. Not only did Albertsons have great variety, a high quality meat section, and incredibly fresh produce, but it was well managed. The Payless store actually leased space inside the store to local businesses, namely a snack bar, a game center, a restaurant that served a great steak dinner, a family shoe center, men's and women's clothing sections, dry cleaners, and appliances/electronics, in addition to hosting their own jewelry counter, optometrist, and bakery, as well as traditional drug store products. There was ample parking in front, as well as an escalator in the store that led to a rooftop parking lot.

As we got older, the corner of Saint Charles and Alemany was home base—we called it "The Corner." Two things eventually happened to us—girls and hot rods. On any given weekend, we would pile into our custom cars—big, loud, and fast—and meet at the A&W Drive-in (Westlake Center, now a Burger King, corner of John Daly Drive and Lake Merced Blvd.). We would then proceed to Brotherhood Way to race. Luckily, no one was hurt. In time, the powers that be intervened and that came to an end. For some of us, the love of hot rods lives on (minus the racing). The years have reduced our numbers, but to this day, a group of us still stay in touch. We talk about how lucky we were growing up in The Neighborhood, our many friends and countless memories that live on. Even though the big city has caught up with our little area, we raised our kids here and, despite the inevitable changes, we still call it home.

"TOGETHER WE BLOOM" MOSIAC MURAL



A mosaic mural on the Ramsell stairs on the eastern edge of Sisterhood Gardens has been delayed by more than a year, as bureaucratic delays with city agency approvals have slowed the process. "Together We Bloom" is a 24-step mosaic mural designed and implemented by the Sisterhood Garden community.

Led by artist Kim Jensen, the multi year long process began in 2021 with three rounds of community input on the design. Over 100 community members spent approximately ten sessions assembling the various rows of tiles, in late 2021 and 2022.

METNA REMINDER

PARKING VEHICLES ON A SIDEWALK CVC, Section 22500f

The California Vehicle Code, Section 22500f **prohibits the parking, stopping or standing of a vehicle on any portion of the sidewalk, or with the body of the vehicle extending over a portion of the sidewalk, property line to curb line.** It is also illegal to park on a marked or unmarked crosswalk, and within three feet of a sidewalk ramp for disabled persons. Furthermore, it is illegal to park in front of or on a curb ramp that provides wheelchair access to a sidewalk.

The San Francisco Transportation Agency (SFMTA) which is in charge of parking enforcement states, *'Parking on the sidewalk is a hazard to pedestrians and disabled individuals and is subject to a fine.'*

The above violations remain a critical safety issue, especially for young children, the elderly, and disabled, especially if they have to enter the street to pass. Please be courteous and promote safety by not blocking a sidewalk or curb ramp at any time.

JOIN METNA
Now collecting membership dues for
2024
--Information on page 3 / Membership
Application enclosed--