Alamo Square Easter Egg Hunt

The Third Baptist Church invites you to an Easter Egg Hunt at Alamo Square on Saturday, March 30, 2013 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Face painting, food, and games for kids!

Third Baptist is located at 1399 McAllister Street, on the corner of Pierce Street. The church was founded in 1852, and has been at its current location since 1952. Rev. Amos C. Brown has led the church since 1976.

Park irrigation plan update

Alamo Square will soon get an irrigation system overhaul with funding from the SFPUC.

This newsletter will continue to update neighbors on the progress of the irrigation plan process and implementation. The project timeline has been slightly modified.

The following is the revised project timeline:
Planning/Public Outreach, March-July 2013
Construction Documents, August-Nov 2013
Advertise/Bid Process, Dec 2013-Apr 2014
Construction, May-October 2014
Closeout, November-December 2014

next meeting

MONDAY, MAR 18, 2013

Alamo Square Meeting
Where: Oasis Cafe, McAllister at Divisadero Street
When: Welcome 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.
Agenda: Clean Power SF SFPD Park Station update French American School update Plans for Bay to Breakers 2013

Join ASNA! Membership form inside. Alamo Square Neighborhood Association boundaries:

upcoming events

Every Saturday
Fillmore Farmers Market
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fillmore & O’Farrell

Every Sunday
Divisadero Farmers Market
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Divisadero & Grove

First Sunday and Every Tues.
Alamo Square Playgroups
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Meet near the playground.
see Events >
Volunteer for the 2013 Alamo Square Flea Market

BY MARY BOSWORTH, ASNA BOARD MEMBER

The annual Alamo Square Flea Market will be held on August 17, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., along the west side of Alamo Square park. Previous years’ flea markets were a great success, raising funds for neighborhood and park improvements, as well as giving neighbors a chance to meet and greet each other. Just a few of the projects that have received funds raised by the flea market include the murals on the Fell Street retaining wall at Ida B. Wells High School, supplies for park clean up days in Alamo Square park, funding of a tree study in Alamo Square park (donated to SF Rec & Park to assist their arborists with tree maintenance and planning), coffee and snacks for ASNA play groups, and many others! ASNA remains committed to supporting neighborhood safety and beautification projects, which benefit from the proceeds of the annual flea market.

Join us this year as a vendor or volunteer! For more information on volunteer opportunities, please email us at volunteers@alamosq.org and watch for information in future newsletters. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please contact us at fleamarket@alamosq.org. (Vendor applications are not yet being accepted. Please stay tuned for more information.)
For and Against Residential Permit Parking

We are opposed to RPP on our street. While we could afford the fee, many cannot... and let's face it, with the added parking meters and Sunday parking meter enforcement city-wide, added fees and inconveniences are killing us! What happens when a caregiver for an elderly person cannot park without running out every couple of hours to move their car? A client with Alzheimer's for example cannot be left alone even for ten minutes. Also, I must say I have sympathy for the small merchants as well. Also, what happens when a friend comes to visit and we go walking for 4 or 5 hours through the Park and other areas of our lovely City? A ticket!! No, thank you.

I am not a car fiend. I walk most places, but I also must have an auto. Don't make it worse for us and our neighborhood.

We are absolutely NOT convinced that changing our neighborhood into an RPP zone would improve the parking situation one iota. This plan must be opposed. Thanks for hearing us out.

Sherrie and Joe

Personally, I am in favor of RPP every day from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. Parking in the evening every day of the week is extremely difficult, especially for someone like me who doesn’t get home from work until after 6. I am paying $240 a month to have a parking space at Lucky's as my fallback position, but would welcome not having to pay $2,880 annually just to have a parking space. With every new business that opens, more people are looking for parking in the neighborhood yet the number of available spaces remains the same. I would love to be able to come home at night and have a chance at a parking space, and hopefully the RPP will lead us in that direction.

Robert

Letters to the Board

PARKING SPACE NEEDED

If you have a parking space available for rent within two (2) blocks of Divisadero and Fell Streets, please contact Leslie at (415) 913-7800 or lvalpey@lexlawgroup.com. Thank you.

Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors,

District 5, in the heart of San Francisco, is as diverse and unique as the City itself. All sorts of people live here: from Internet moguls to small business owners, life-long residents to couch-surfers, families with kids, lots of dogs, folks whose families have lived here for generations, living next door to someone who just unpacked into their first apartment. We have some of the most sought-after real estate in the city right next to public housing.

Our neighborhoods are distinct, too, and most D5 neighborhoods have a neighborhood and / or merchants association, including: Inner Sunset, Haight Ashbury, North of Panhandle, Alamo Square, Lower Haight, Hayes Valley, Cole Valley and Divisadero Street.

The District 5 neighborhood associations have worked closely together for some time. From the former SF5Together to the current organization, District 5 Neighborhood Action Committee, residents know that working together with one voice and a common goal yields better results than a few people on their own.

Nowhere is this more clear than in the radical change with the Bay to Breakers. We all love the Bay to Breakers, a quintessential San

see President’s Letter >
President's Letter, cont’d

Francisco tradition enjoyed by locals and visitors from all over the world. However, the Bay to Breakers of 2010 was the breaking point for many of the neighborhoods in District 5, which is on the route of the race. Residents tried in vain to protect their homes from drunk and disorderly runners who used doorways as public toilets. The parks, especially Alamo Square and the Panhandle were completely trashed. Ocean Beach was awash in refuse and discarded floats and costumes.

The Neighborhood Associations rallied with one voice with the very clear message of “No More Alcohol, or No More Bay to Breakers!” Over the course of the year, the D5NAC worked diligently with SFPD, city officials, and the race organizers to plan for a better Bay to Breakers with new regulations: alcohol and floats were banned, the parks were better protected with physical barriers, and the number of portable toilets was significantly increased. Each neighborhood along the route organized Ambassador Teams, who notified SFPD of any problems, and directed participants to aid, if needed. Most important was to keep the event whacky, fun and safe.

After two years of the new regulations, most neighbors agree that the change in the Bay to Breakers has been very positive for all. We look forward to Sunday May 19th for the 102nd race!

The D5 Neighborhood Action Committee does not have dues or formal meetings, rather it operates on the agreement with the neighborhood associations that we will work together and do what is best for the district. We may disagree, but we will always be respectful of another neighborhoods’ position.

Rather than focus on one neighborhood agenda, the D5NAC focuses on broader issues that affect residents’ day-to-day experience, such as bike lanes or aggressive panhandling in the parks. It helps if a coordinated group is championing an issue.

We have more of a voice at City Hall as a unified body, and this helps us communicate to our government representatives what is important to us. That is really a valuable tool, which helps residents push for change that would have the most positive impact.

One example of a current project like that is Alvord Lake, the area of Golden Gate Park near Stanyan and Haight Streets where lots of people tend to gather with dogs, shopping carts, etc. and smoke or panhandle. It creates an unwelcoming environment. Many residents believe that this area could be more productive and welcoming, and a separate committee is working just on that.

The D5NAC has helped Supervisor London Breed with her Community Office Hours. Most weekends, a neighborhood association will “host” Supervisor Breed at a local cafe or restaurant, so residents can meet with Supervisor Breed in their area, rather than at City Hall. The D5NAC also has planned quarterly meetings with Supervisor Breed, to let her know what we are seeing in our neighborhoods and coordinate efforts with her.

Lisa Zahner, President
Alamo Square Neighborhood Association
These first couple of months has been a whirlwind tour of neighborhood groups, merchant groups, bicyclists, renters, homeowners, teachers, union members, and many, many Board meetings. Though I have lived almost my entire life here, in truth, nothing can fully prepare you for seeing District 5 from the viewpoint of a Supervisor’s office in City Hall.

I could not be more proud of how many neighborhood groups and individual community members in our District take a direct interest in preserving the character of our City. D5 has never been the place to sit back and let government go about its business without our input, our local expertise, or our passionate concern for our communities. As long as I am representing this District, I know that I will have no shortage of creative ideas from my constituents to bring before the Board of Supervisors. This brings me to the specific concerns of those of you who make up that beautiful center of our City, Alamo Square.

I was fortunate to meet with you all so early after taking office as a guest at the wonderful January 27th potluck. It was a great opportunity to hear from you directly the concerns and issues of the neighborhood including the tour bus question. Since that meeting my staff has been tasked with being proactive about the future of tour buses in our City.

Currently, tourism is our number one industry bringing in approximately $8.5 billion annually to our economy with thousands of jobs and individuals supported by an industry that is key to San Francisco’s growth and culture. So, the question is, how do we reconcile the stresses upon our infrastructure, residents, and well-being with growth, jobs, and opportunities? The solution: we do it by working together and by examining the issue holistically.

On the working together front, my staff and I have been working with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority (SFMTA) to coordinate stakeholders to weigh in on the tour bus issue. In line with this, SFMTA staff will be offering the following community Workshop:

“The Tour Bus Workshop will be held on the evening of Tuesday, April 30 from 6-9 p.m. Location TBD. The workshop is intended to bring together one or two rep see Message from Supervisor Breed >
representatives of all stakeholders including neighborhood groups, tour bus companies, and city and state agencies to discuss city-wide tour bus issues and craft possible solutions."

This is a great opportunity for us to come together as a community of stakeholders to have a frank, open, and intelligent discussion on how best to work together to have lasting, sustainable, and viable solutions.

The second part, examining the issue holistically, is where my office has been most focused. Part of the issue with the tour bus circulation in the area has been the lack of any loading zone specifically dedicated to tour buses; however, this is no longer the case. I am happy to report that this February the SFMTA installed a Tour Bus Loading Zone on the north side of Fell Street just west of Divisadero Street. SFMTA staff’s most recent report states, “It is a six-month trial designed to test whether visitors who want to see Alamo Square will be willing to walk there from the Tour Bus Zone at Fell/Divisadero. SFMTA enforcement staff has been patrolling the new zone for the past several weeks to make sure that other vehicles don’t park there. We will monitor tour bus activity at this zone over the coming months.” It is my hope that with this new installation, as well as outreach to local tour bus operators, we will drastically reduce the number of tour buses loading illegally directly at Alamo Square Park. The other component, and what makes this truly holistic, is the recent legislation I introduced to create the named ‘Divisadero Commercial District’ alongside strong formula-retail controls.

As it is now, the tourist destination has been focalized around Alamo Square Park and my goal is to create a distinct and locally representative commercial corridor that can be an additional draw to those visiting our amazing City. It is my firm belief that having a vibrant and active Divisadero Street, with a distinct local flavor, will incentivize tourists to not just ‘hop-on/hop-off’ for a quick snapshot of the Painted Ladies, but to wander, walk, and experience a distinct cultural representation of the great Divisadero corridor, Lower Haight, and Alamo Square all on the same visit.

The one regret I have is that this will not happen overnight. This will be a long process of mutual coordination and support from community members, merchants, and tour bus operators to, on the one hand, truly activate the Divisadero corridor, and, on the other hand, shift the tour bus drop points away from Alamo Square Park. I know that together we can make this happen and together we can bring the literal heart of the City to the next level in growth and sustainability.
Park improvements status report

BY JOHN DALLAS, ASNA BOARD MEMBER

We reported several problems to Rec and Parks Department (RPD) last month, and received the following status report.

The clogged water fountain next to the children’s playground has been noted, and a work order to clean out the water fountain has been issued. RPD will consider moving the water fountain away from the adjoining sand pit as part of the long-term restroom renovation project.

The dead tree in the park on Scott Street side will hopefully be removed within a month.

RPD will notify gardeners about path edging in the park, so that both east and west sides get equal treatment.

RPD will also begin to take over the garbage collection in the park, and will implement the change along with the various park improvement projects scheduled for Alamo Square.

Alamo Square

hoodies and t-shirts

Tshirts (Green, Black, or Gray) $15
Hoodies (Black or Brown) $45 Members
$60 Non-Members

Email us to check availability and place an order: hoodies@alamosq.org or tshirts@alamosq.org.

Kevin K. Ho
BROKER ASSOCIATE / ATTORNEY
415.875.7408
kho@vanguardsf.com
www.kevinho.org
Lic. #01485512

I felt a lot of confidence throughout the process knowing I was working with someone who knew their stuff inside out”
— Joanna S.,
Buyer, Noe Valley

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"
Grow lemons! That’s the idea behind JustOneTree (JOT), a program of the San Francisco-based nonprofit Urban Resource Systems. With a goal of fostering community food resilience, JOT is partnering with neighborhood associations, nonprofits and City agencies to achieve sustainability in lemon production. Lemon trees comprise a key ingredient in the diet of many cultures and can produce up to 200 pounds of fruit throughout the year. Dwarf and semi-dwarf varieties are just the right size for most San Francisco back yards and they can take some shade. Myer lemons can also be grown indoors in a sunny window, allowing everyone to participate in the sustainability effort for San Francisco.

Using GIS software, JustOneTree will monitor planting in San Francisco’s neighborhoods to achieve the goal of 12,000 lemon trees that will ensure an abundant and continual supply of lemons for city residents. JOT is presently gathering data on San Francisco’s existing lemon tree population, estimated by the Department of Public Works at 3-4,000 trees. This is where community partners can be of assistance since the campaign relies on volunteers and neighborhood associations to help locate and register lemon trees. More than 500 trees were registered in 2012. “Lemon spotters” can register any tree whether it is in their yard or not.

JOT’s mission does not stop at establishing lemon self-sufficiency in San Francisco. “Lemons are an achievable goal in San Francisco,” says Isabel Wade the campaign founder, “but the larger goal is to promote the value of tree crops in cities where growing space is in short supply.” As the JOT program grows roots in San Francisco, Urban Resource Systems hopes that it will inspire similar urban fruit tree projects across the nation and globe.

Volunteers are needed to encourage or conduct tree registration and funding is being sought to promote the planting campaign and to subsidize trees for lower income neighborhoods, schools, community gardens and food forests on public land.

Register your lemon tree or plant one this winter! Visit www.justonetree.org for registration and more information how to help.
BY OWEN O’DONNELL, ASNA BOARD MEMBER

Do you have a hankering for fresh bread, toasted, and covered with butter and jam? Would you like to wash that down with a great cup of coffee? There is a local merchant who will satisfy your craving.

Visit The Mill on Divisadero between Fulton and Grove for your fix of fresh bread and great coffee. Josey Baker has opened a café/bakery in a joint venture with Four Barrel Coffee where fresh bread is baked on site along with cookies, granola, coffee cake and other delicious creations of the baker’s art. There is café seating inside and a patio in the back is in the plans. They also hope to have a parklet out front as well. The hours are from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily seven days a week.

The Mill will be a full bakery and it will also have a stone mill, which Josey and his team will use to make fresh milled whole grain flours. This will be the first stone mill in San Francisco. The baked products will be sour dough and whole grains and the smell of baking bread and other treats should put your appetite in high gear. You can take some bread home with you and you can also order by subscription from joseybakerbread.com should our San Francisco weather keep you inside. Your coffee needs can also be filled by Four Barrel by subscription from their website.

Josey is a local resident who migrated here from snowy Vermont. He promises to try to source products like butter and jam and other ingredients locally reducing the business’ carbon footprint. Drop by and introduce yourself to Josey and sample his mouth-watering baked goods and a hot cup of Four Barrel coffee.
San Francisco’s Victorian Specialist for over 20 years.

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Events, cont’d

First Saturdays, every other month
Alamo Square Park Volunteer Day
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Meet near the tennis court; coffee provided.

Join us for our 2013 Park Volunteer Days hosted by Alamo Square Neighborhood Association.

Email us at park@alamosq.org to let us know you’re coming so we can plan the day’s clean-up activities!

Save the Dates!
Park Volunteer Days:
Saturday, April 6
Saturday, June 1
Saturday, August 3
Saturday, October 5

Important Contacts
Steve Cismowski, Manager Rec and Parks Department steve.cismowski@sfgov.org (415) 831-6358
ParkScan: Report park issues at ParkScan.org

Greg Corrales, Police Captain SFPD Park Station (415) 242-3000 SFPDParkStation@sfgov.org
Ann Mannix, Police Captain SFPD Northern Station (415) 614-3400 SFPDNorthernStation@sfgov.org

911 for Emergencies
Non-Emergencies: 553-5123

Privacy policy
Alamo Square Neighborhood Association (ASNA) will not share your information with anyone, nor will your information be given out for political purposes.

Your Source for Qualified Tenants

Jackie Tom
SFAA’s 2009 Leasing Agent of the Year
SFAA’s 2010 Independent Landlord of the Year

2013 ASNA Membership Form

Personal Contact Information (2 contacts per general/family membership, will only be used for ASNA purposes)

Primary Contact - Please print legibly
First Name
Last Name
Email
Phone

Secondary Contact
First Name
Last Name
Email
Phone

Address Information
Street
City
State
Zip

Membership Rates
☐ $15 - Basic Membership
☐ $30 - General / Family Membership
☐ $50 - Contributing Membership
☐ $100 - Supporting Membership
☐ Other contribution
☐ Check this box if you are renewing your membership
☐ I would like to receive the Alamo Square Newsletter (bi-monthly)

Indicate areas of interest:
☐ Park Volunteer Days
☐ Alamo Square Flea Market Volunteer
☐ Transportation & Pedestrian Safety
☐ Neighborhood Socials and Events
☐ Other

Make checks payable to: ASNA, Box 15372, San Francisco, CA 94115
Alamo Square Newsletter
February – March 2013

February
Monday, February 4
Alamo Square Board Meeting

March
Monday, March 18
Alamo Square General Meeting
Oasis Cafe - McAllister at Divisadero
7 p.m. Welcome; 7:30 p.m. Meeting starts

April
Saturday, April 6
Alamo Square Park Volunteer Day
9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet by the tennis court; coffee provided.

Sunday, April 7
Alamo Square Playgroups Monthly Meet-up
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For kids 0-3 and their parents. Meet at the playground.

Alamo Square Online: www.alamosq.org