Bay to Breakers set for Sunday, May 19

More than 30,000 athletes from around the globe will descend upon the streets of San Francisco for the 102nd Bay to Breakers 12K running race, set to take place on Sunday, May 19, presented by craigslist.

Neighborhood Ambassadors needed

Be a Bay to Breakers Neighborhood Ambassadors – enjoy Bay to Breakers while helping keep participants, our park, and our neighborhood safe and fun for everyone! Volunteers give directions (mostly to the porta-potties) and identify any problems and report them to race organizers and SFPD. Sign up for a 2-hour shift and you’ll also get a free t-shirt! Visit our website to sign up at www.alamosq.org.

Race Day Hotline: 415-295-1592

On race day, call the race day hotline for event info, or to report incidents in your neighborhood. For emergencies dial 911.

The following closures will affect the Alamo Square neighborhood:

**Race Day 5/19**

- Divisadero Street closed from Grove to Oak, 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Steiner Street closed from Grove to Hayes, 5 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Baker Street from Oak to Fell, 5 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Hayes Street from Market to Divisadero, 6 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Fell Street from Divisadero to Stanyan, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Thursday, May 9, 6:00 p.m., join ASNA and Recreation and Park Department officials who are responsible for Alamo Square Park’s new irrigation and landscaping project as we walk through the park. They would like those of us who use the park to join them and explain what we think would be the most useful improvements. The walk will begin in the center of the park and last about an hour.

The first community input meeting to plan for water conservation improvements for Alamo Square Park was held on Thursday, May 2, 2013, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hayes Valley Clubhouse, located at the corner of Hayes and Buchanan Streets.

For more information please call Marvin Yee at (415) 581-2541, Recreation and Park Department.
Donate your treasures to the Alamo Square Flea Market

BY MARY BOSWORTH, ASNA BOARD MEMBER

The annual ASNA flea market is fast approaching—this year it will be on August 17, 2013. We know that you’re planning to attend. But, how can you otherwise help the flea market, you ask? By donating your gently-used treasures to the ASNA booth for sale. Every year, ASNA not only organizes the flea market, bringing neighbors together and putting delicious food trucks mere blocks from your house, but also has a booth selling awesome recycled items from our friends and neighbors. Every year, the ASNA donations booth is a significant fund raiser for the association. Please give your re-sale-able items to a good cause -- your local neighborhood association, ASNA. All of the funds generated by the flea market are returned to the neighborhood, in the form of support for safety, preservation, advocacy, and clean up projects. ASNA’s funding is used to clean up our park, direct the city’s resources our way, and support many neighborhood projects.

If you have items to donate, please contact us at donations@alamosq.org or call (415) 787-FLEA to schedule a pick up. Our Flea Market Donations Chair, Mike Lombardo, will gladly arrange for pick up and storage of your donations in advance of this year’s flea market. Thank you in advance for your support. See you on August 17, 2013! Any questions about the flea market? Please email us at fleamarket@alamosq.org. To volunteer, please email us at volunteers@alamosq.org. (Vendor registration is not yet open. Stay tuned to our website at www.alamosq.org for more information.)
Dear Neighbors,

If you ever look around the neighborhood and find things that inspire you or frustrate you, I encourage you to take action! Now is a great time to roll up your sleeves and contribute your efforts and energy to the Alamo Square neighborhood we all love. There are many upcoming projects and ways for you to get involved. I encourage you to pick one, and go for it! Ask a friend or two to join you! Check out just a few opportunities:

**Sidewalk Garden Planting** – Be the person to bring sidewalk gardens to Alamo Square! The SFPUC and Friends of the Urban Forest have partnered on the Sidewalk Garden Project. This project will replace concrete sidewalks with thriving gardens to capture stormwater, reduce the burden on our sewer system and add beauty and nature right at your doorstep! For more info visit www.fuf.net/sidewalk.

**Alamo Square Flea Market** – the 30th annual Flea Market is Saturday, August 17th! This is a super fun day for neighbors to see each other, check out the swanky swag and find great deals! Lend a hand to make it all happen! You can help for an hour or the entire day – we need help with setup and teardown, collecting donated items for your visitors, neighborhood merchants, their employees and customers, could park protected from theft and inclement weather. The garages would have a special tour bus parking area, shuttles to whisk you to and from your destination. Discuss with family and neighbors and our supervisor, London Breed, the new jobs, parking tax and tourist money, the beneficial effects to our neighborhood and our City.

Richard

**AGAINST RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING**

I just read the fairly balanced article on Residential Parking Permits in the Dec/Jan newsletter. I think RPP is a terrible idea. I lived in Cole Valley when we did it there, and none of the benefits that were touted turned out to be true, and all the costs that they failed to mention did. Also, everyone underestimated how inconvenient the whole visitor permit system is: besides not being cheap, it may mean a trip downtown and it’s especially inconvenient for people who don’t own a car but occasionally rent one and need to park it on the street. You also still need to pay for a permit if you’re just parking on the street in front of your own driveway.

We will have the same results here, for the same reasons. As the article points out, our parking problem is at night, and RPP isn’t going to help at all with that. RPP only applies during the day, when parking is easy in our neighborhood. RPP doesn’t apply after 6 p.m.

Brian

---

**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.
our booth, vendor registration, barricade greeters, etc. We have a spot for you! Email volunteers@alamosq.org.

Earlier this week, the MTA convened a Tour Bus Summit. Attendees included representatives from the SF travel industry, neighborhood, city and state agencies, and from Supervisors Breed and Chiu’s offices. The meeting was facilitated by Gabriel Metcalf, Executive Director of SPUR (SF Planning and Urban Research).

At the summit, stakeholders from each group had an opportunity to express their viewpoints and concerns about the tour buses in the City. We heard about issues that other neighborhoods have with the buses, such as party buses that bring folks to North Beach at night for the clubs, or casino buses that park on residential streets to bring folks to Reno for daily round-trips. Residents and business owners in Union Square and Fishermans Wharf expressed frustration at sidewalk salespeople offering tours.

From the tour bus operators, we heard about the frustration of not being allowed to stay in place long enough to fill a bus, which results in the half-full buses we see in our neighborhood. We also heard about the challenge of staying on a tight schedule so tourists can see the sights and make their ferry to Alcatraz.

SFPD said that they are swamped with commercial vehicle violation complaints and not enough officers to deal with them.

The tour operators who attended represented the San Francisco-based companies, not the out-of-city or out-of-state companies. We had a good dialogue and brainstormed some possible solutions that might help mitigate the impact of tour buses in our neighborhoods, such as: defining allowable routes through the City and regulating the quantity of buses allowed on each route; outfitting the buses with Clipper Card readers; making it easier for tourists to get their own Clipper cards or Muni passes; requiring all buses to have a certified guide to ensure that out-of-area buses adhere to local regulations and routes, like a bar pilot who brings in the container ships; limiting the number of tour buses allowed with permits, like taxi medallions; prohibiting advertising on the buses; requiring headsets, or prohibiting loudspeakers on open-top buses; centralizing ticket-selling with kiosks; creating a motorcoach enforcement division at SFPD to regulate not only tour buses, but casino, party, and commuter buses too; and more.

It was a good dialogue and a good place to start. We will keep you posted as things develop.

Lisa Zahner, President
Alamo Square Neighborhood Association
The Plight and Promise of Public Housing

I met a woman last week who has been fighting a losing battle for decades. Despite maintaining an immaculate kitchen, tightly sealing her food, and occasionally detonating bug bombs, her public housing apartment, here in the shadow of City Hall, remains infested with roaches and mice. This is a story I know too well.

I grew up in Plaza East public housing in the heart of San Francisco’s Western Addition, where along with pervasive violence, we had to deal with weeks-long plumbing outages and ever-present pests. The stigma of public housing extended beyond the walls of Plaza East, when visiting friends and relatives meant shaking my clothes out at the door to reassure them I was not transporting roaches.

These conditions, which sadly have not changed since I left public housing, lead to a sense of isolation that in turn perpetuates a cycle of indifference and crime. While I was fortunate enough to escape this cycle, I refuse to forget those who are still stuck.

As Supervisor, I intend to lead the effort to fix San Francisco’s Housing Authority, which is responsible for over 20,000 residents. I am grateful that Mayor Ed Lee has also made this a priority and has assembled a task force of experts to chart a new direction for public housing. We have a unique opportunity, both politically and economically, to finally address the injustices of public housing—and we must use it. However, the City cannot fix these problems alone and will need the private sector to partner with us.

As a starting point, I am actively fighting for a budget appropriation for public housing pest control, as eradication will immediately elevate the dignity and self-respect of these residents. I am also co-chairing a hearing on April 25th to evaluate the jobs training program “Tech SF” in the hope that more residents of public housing are connected to the burgeoning tech economy.

San Francisco is a great city and will be an even better one when the residents of public housing are included in our success.
New permit parking zone proposed for Alamo Square area

BY ANDREW DUDLEY, HAIGHTERATION

April 15, 2013 — About six months ago, we asked whether we need more residential permit parking in the area. Many readers said yes, and now it seems that someone is taking action.

This weekend we spotted the above flyer at Oak and Pierce, touting the joys of permit parking. “Park closer to your homes,” “save countless minutes of circling,” and “make our streets safer from frustrated swerving ‘parkers’” are the primary benefits mentioned on the anonymously-posted flyer, which encourages supporters to sign an online petition. The goal is to create a new permit parking zone in the 60-square-block area bounded by Masonic, McAllister, Webster, and Page.

Parking within those general boundaries currently does not require a residential permit, which makes it an attractive area for non-resident drivers. The petition claims that “more than half of the cars parked in this neighborhood are not registered to addresses in this zip code (94117), [and] about 90% of existing parking is usually occupied.” We’re not quite sure where those numbers come from, but anecdotally we wouldn’t be surprised if they were accurate.

Requiring drivers to purchase permits (and prove residency) if they seek to park in the area would presumably alleviate the lack-of-parking problem. The permits would cost residents $104 per year.

When 250 signatures from residents in the area are collected, the SFMTA will begin the process of considering the new area. Certain criteria must be met, and various reviews would occur (as well as a public hearing), leading up to a final decision by the SFMTA Board of Directors. The entire process would take about six months.

So if you live in the specified area and support the new permit zone, go ahead and sign the petition. We’ll keep you updated should the project move forward.

www.haighteration.com/2013/04/new-permit-parking-zone-proposed-for-alamo-square-area.html
The future of the Alamo Square Flea Market

BY GUS HERNANDEZ, ALAMO SQUARE NEWSLETTER

Although we are diligently planning this year’s 30th Annual Flea Market, it might be our last one.

A small but vocal group of neighbors have asked the ASNA Board to consider making changes to the event, or even consider doing without the annual Flea Market altogether.

Plans are already underway for this year’s traditional Flea Market. We have started gathering donations and our street closure permits are coming through, pending any last minute delays.

The neighbors have requested that, aside from cancelling the Flea Market, we consider creating a more ‘upscale’ event, to match the new character of the neighborhood.

Come to our Monday, May 20 general meeting to get involved and help decide the future of the Alamo Square Flea Market.
The Mill receives preliminary approval for parklet

BY ANDREW DUDLEY, HAIGHTERATION

March 27, 2013—San Francisco’s Department of Public Works has recommended approval of The Mill’s application to install a parklet at 736 Divisadero.

On March 13th, DPW held a public hearing to consider the parklet. They had received 139 emails in support, and 77 emails opposed. At the hearing, testimony was offered by reps from The Mill as well as local neighborhood associations. Two residents spoke up in opposition, “emphasizing that the placement of a new Parklet would result in loss of parking, and claiming that the applicant’s outreach to the community was poor,” according to DPW.

Considering all the testimony and recommendations from staff, the DPW’s Hearing Officer decided on Monday to recommend approval of The Mill’s plans.

The Mill must now submit a final design plan, pay additional fees, and secure insurance before the parklet permit is officially approved and issued. They also must agree to meet certain conditions, like posting a sign on the parklet that says “Respect our Neighbors,” and conducting additional community outreach. So, there’s still a ways to go before you’ll be eating your toast traffic-side. We’ll keep you posted. So if you live in the specified area and support the new permit zone, go ahead and sign the petition. We’ll keep you updated should the project move forward.

haighteration.com/2013/03/the-mill-receives-preliminary-approval-for-parklet.html
BY OWEN O’DONNELL, ASNA BOARD MEMBER

You had a long day at work, you’re tired and in need of a pick-me-up. Try stopping at Wine Kitchen, 507 Divisadero between Fell and Hayes streets for a little liquid and solid food refreshment. You will be entering a space that used to be an empty garage, which Jason and Greg, the owners, have transformed into a bar and restaurant with a modern décor with earthy and warm tones.

This attractive social gathering place serves wine from an international list of wine: red, white, rose, sparkling and dessert, with two beers on tap and several other in bottles. Wine Kitchen also serves small plate entrees with a new American cuisine. The entrees have a seasonal orientation and when possible the food is sourced from local farmers.

To illustrate your choices you could order Big Eye Tuna Crudo, Quinoa, Avocado and Sesame which goes very well with NV Mary Elke Brut from the Anderson Valley. For your second plate you could order Sweetbreads, Buffalo Bob’s Hot Sauce, Shaved Veg, Ranch with a draft of Anchor Steam beer. If either of these selections are not to your taste you could order Grilled & Raw Asparagus, Gribiche, and Shoestring Potatoes with a ’11 Gruner Veltliner, Brundlmayer, Kamptal. It is an adventuresome menu and a wine list from the familiar to the unusual.

The owners, Jason and Greg, have 10 years of restaurant cooking experience and this is their first venture as owners. They are aiming to create a neighborhood oriented place where everyone will feel comfortable and truly satisfied when they leave to go home. The food is priced between $8 and $13 per plate and most people are satisfied with one or two plates. The wine is priced from $8 to $15 per glass or $30 to $100 if you want a full bottle. The hours are from 4:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The kitchen opens at 5:30 p.m. and closes at 10 p.m. Wine Kitchen opened earlier this year and it is already attracting an enthusiastic crowd. Come with your friends or come alone and make a new friends. There is a TV which will have sports events for those who want to mix sports with good company enhanced by good wine and food (and beer for those whose taste buds gravitate to barley and hops).

They are off to a good start and you will too if you stop by for some good wine and several delicious plates of mouth watering fare. I hope to see you there. 

Meet your local merchant

Wine Kitchen

Blue J Cafe
919 Divisadero
415 447 6066
Mon-Sat 11 am-10pm
Sun 10am-3pm

Kids eat free before 7 p.m.
Early kids movie on Fridays

Monday night 1/2 price bottle of wine / Tuesday $1 Pabst Blue Ribbon
Wednesday Burger & a draft beer $11 / Thursday $2 Sangria
Saturday brunch 2 for 1 Mimosa
San Francisco’s Victorian Specialist for over 20 years.

Bonnie Spindler
All Time Top Residential Sales Agent at Zephyr Real Estate
415.474.4445
properties@bonniespindler.com
www.bonniespindler.com
**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, June 1
Saturday, August 3
Saturday, October 5

---

**Important Contacts**
Steve Cismowski, Manager
Rec and Parks Department
steve.cismowski@sfgov.org
(415) 831-6358. 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

Dial 911 for Emergencies
Non-Emergencies: 553-5123
Dial 311 for city services

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

---

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Secondary Contact**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Address Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
April – May 2013

April
Monday, April 29
Alamo Square Board Meeting

May
Monday, May 20
Alamo Square General Meeting
Oasis Cafe - McAllister at Divisadero
7 p.m. Welcome; 7:30 p.m. Meeting starts

June
Saturday, June 1
Alamo Square Park Volunteer Day
9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet by the tennis court; coffee provided.

Alamo Square Online: www.alamosq.org