Alamo Square
Newsletter

next meeting
MONDAY, SEPT 23, 2013

Alamo Square Meeting
Where: Oasis Cafe, McAllister at Divisadero Street
When: Welcome 7:00 p.m.
Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

Join ASNA! Membership form inside.
Alamo Square Neighborhood Association boundaries: Turk, Buchanan, Page, and Baker Streets

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

Every Tuesday
Alamo Square Playgroups
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Kids 0-3 and their parents!
Meet near the playground.

Thursday, August 15
Divisadero Art Walk
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Kids 0-3 and their parents!

see Events >
2013 Board of Directors

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Lisa Zahner, President
lisa.zahner@alamosq.org

Gus Hernandez, Vice President
gus.hernandez@alamosq.org

Eринne Morse, Treasurer
erinne.morse@alamosq.org

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bill.bonds@alamosq.org

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Newsletter

Editor: Gus Hernandez
Contributors: Bill Bonds, Katrina Jankowski, Gus Hernandez, Lee Stickles, Michael Smithwick, Lisa Zahner, Supervisor London Breed, ASNA Board
Next deadline is October 1.
Email newsletter@alamosq.org

Advertising

Please contact us via email if you would like to advertise in this newsletter at ads@alamosq.org.

Alamo Square Online

www.alamosq.org
ASNA email list: update@alamosq.org

Divisadero Art Walk, Thursday, August 15, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

On Thursday, August 15, the Divisadero Summer Art Walk is back! From Haight to Geary on Divisadero, check out art shows, designers, food, drinks, culture, music and plenty to keep you busy from 5 p.m. until late at night.

Local businesses participating:
- Magpie & Rye Boutique (262 Divisadero) Ceramic work from Sarah Burwash and Glasswork by David Scheid
- Little Chihuahua (292 Divisadero) The Page (298 Divisadero) Onyx Boutique (289 Divisadero)
- Vinyl (359 Divisadero) Madrone Art Bar (500 Divisadero) Surf photography from the 1960’s by the late Fred Windisch Reception 6-9 p.m. with New Orleans Piano Music. Followed by The Night Fever Disco Party (No cover)
- San FranPsycho (505 Divisadero) Ziryab (528 Divisadero) Grand Re-Opening specials
- Bi-Rite (550 Divisadero) NOPA (560 Divisadero)
- Rare Device (600 Divisadero)
- Mojo (639 Divisadero)
- SF Skate Club (653 A Divisadero)
- La Urbana (661 Divisadero) Grand Opening The Mill (736 Divisadero)
- Fly Bar (762 Divisadero)
- Bar 821 (821 Divisadero) Presenting a group show featuring the artists of Everlasting Tattoo (813 Divisadero Street)
- Big Umbrella Studios (906 Divisadero Street) - Live screen printing and the opening of “Joie de Vivre” a new show celebrating the joy of living, featuring Harrison Love and other local talents
- Mini Bar (837 Divisadero) Art show featuring Barbra Wyeth, Johnny Akihito Noda, Carrie Cottini, Addison Mayfield
- Hunted (843 Divisadero)
- Blue Jay Cafe (919 Divisadero)
- New Liberation Community Garden (1100 Divisadero) Grow Divisadero, a project of Neighbors Developing Divisadero & New Liberation Church
- Corkage Sake & Wine Shop (1302 Fulton Street)

Green Earth Natural Foods
860 Divisadero street
San Francisco CA 94117

We’ve expanded!
Check out our larger selection
Dear Neighbors,

The SFMTA is working diligently to find creative, workable solutions to the traffic in our neighborhood. Their vision (and mine!) is a neighborhood that is more pedestrian-friendly and safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

A big component of the traffic calming vision is minimizing cut-through traffic on Scott and Steiner Streets, as well as mitigating for the morning back-up to Octavia Boulevard on Oak Street.

With a grant from the Public Utilities Commission, the MTA is looking to add permeable landscaping to parts of the Wiggle Bike Route. One part of the Wiggle under consideration includes Scott Street between Haight and Fell. This would coordinate with the separated bikeways on Oak and Fell Streets, as well as other projects in the Lower Haight.

Tour Bus Update: Nearly 18 months after the ASNA board submitted a formal request for a prohibition of tour buses within the Alamo Square Historic District, we are finally going to have an opportunity to push for the next steps that will lead to legislation.

The prohibition of large (more than 9 passengers) tour buses requires legislation from the

Alamo Square Water Conservation Project (2014)

Next year Alamo Square will be the site of several major construction projects. The most extensive of these is the Water Conservation Project, which involves replacing the park’s irrigation system and replanting its lawns. This project is expected to last six months—from July through December 2014.

As anyone who visits the park regularly can attest, the current irrigation system—some of which may be a century old—is failing. On the park’s sidewalks and steps streams of water flow regularly from cracked pipes and damaged sprinkler heads. And in the midst of otherwise green lawns are large patches of grass that have dried out because the functioning sprinklers don’t reach them. When completed, this project

Letter from the president

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see Alamo Square Water Conservation Project >

see President’s Letter >
Alamo Square Water Conservation Project, cont’d

should both conserve water and restore the beauty of Alamo Square Park.

The funding for Alamo Square’s water conservation project comes from two sources: $1.3 million from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and $1.0 million from the “Clean and Safe” Park Bond approved by San Francisco’s voters in 2012. The goal is to reduce water use in the park by 33%—which would yield a savings of 2.5 million gallons per year. Alamo Square is not the first city park to benefit from such funds: last year Jefferson Square and Alta Plaza did so. But the project at Alamo Square is larger and more expensive than either of these.

Map A: Park Closure Preliminary Phasing Scheme

While Alamo Square’s water conservation project will take at least six months to complete, only one section of the park will be closed throughout that entire period. That’s the area around the restrooms, which will be extensively renovated. Other sections of the park will be closed for about three months: one or two months for construction and the balance for new sod and other plantings to take root. But while some sections are closed, others will remain open and accessible.

During the first three months of construction [July-September], sections of the park that are now heavily used by tourists and dog-walkers, will be closed. These are shown on in dark green [labeled phase 1] on Map A. But when that happens, adjacent and comparable sections will remain open for either

see Alamo Square Water Conservation Project >

Alamo Square Seafood Grill Stimulus Package

We are now offering 1/2 off wine on Monday night in addition to our Wednesday no corkage fee!

Dinner nightly/Catering/Take-Out complimentary parking

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most of that period [those designated for closure in phase 2] or all of it [those designated for closure in phase 3]. The sections closed during phase 1 construction will re-open a few weeks after phase 2 construction begins, and long before the start of phase 3 construction. Throughout the Water Conservation Project children will have access to the playground, and pedestrians will be able to cross the park between the corner of Scott and Fulton and that of Hayes and Steiner.

Map B: Park Re-Planting Zones

Much of Alamo Square is now covered with lawn that needs regular watering and mowing. Most of that lawn will be replanted with comparable turf [shown on the map in light green], which can support heavy use by both people and dogs. But some of the existing lawn will be replaced with vegetation that requires either less water or less maintenance or both. The areas where the current landscaping is most likely to change are those that are least walked upon. These include the entrances to the park, areas with especially steep slopes, and areas that are heavily shaded by the park’s venerable conifers. The park’s entrances will be enhanced with either flowering shrubs [shown in orange] or cherry trees [shown in lavender]. Steep slopes will be replanted either with grasses that require little or no mowing or with native shrubs and mulch [shown in deep purple]. Heavily shaded areas [shown in gray] will have suitable understory plantings, such as ferns or ceanothus. If you visit Alta Plaza, Jefferson Square or Lafayette Park you’ll find numerous examples of the kinds of plantings that the project’s landscape architects are considering.

Next year’s Water Conservation Project will provide an opportunity to plant new trees in Alamo Square. In 2012, ASNA commissioned a tree study by Hort Science. The result of the tree study showed that some of the park’s venerable conifers are dead; others are near the end of their lifespans; and still others have been damaged and are hazardous. To preserve the essence of the park’s forest for future generations, we need to introduce some new trees now and add others regularly during the next decade.

If you have questions, suggestions or concerns, please email board@alamosq.org or the project manager Marvin Yee@sfgov.org. Four members of ASNA’s Board of Directors, Katrina Jankowski, Lee Stickles, John Dallas and Bill Bonds, have met regularly with officials from the SF Recreation and Park Department and will continue to do so.
BY MICHAEL SMITHWICK, ASNA MEMBER

AT&T has proposed to install a new utility box in our neighborhood, on Scott Street, between Oak and Fell. This is part of their plan to install 726 boxes on sidewalks in neighborhoods all over the City. These boxes are for service to AT&T U-Verse customers.

We already have three other existing large electrical boxes on the very same side of the block where the new AT&T box is proposed. All three of the existing electrical boxes on this block are regularly tagged with graffiti. Garbage accumulates around and upon these large boxes on our sidewalks.

Placing AT&T’s utility box on Scott Street at this location is in direct conflict with another taxpayer-funded program already underway by the SFMTA: The Wiggle Neighborhood Green Corridor Project, whose major focus is to “improve walking conditions through the addition of green infrastructure.” A community meeting was held on June 11th, with specific plans presented/discussed for the 400 block of Scott Street intended to make pedestrian passage on the block easier and more inviting. Adding the proposed AT&T utility box at this central Scott Street location would be in conflict with the SFMTA Wiggle Greenway Plan. (There is currently nothing green on this part of Scott Street -- no tree, no shrub, no flower… just concrete and asphalt.)

Join neighbors in requesting that the City keep our public spaces as open as possible and not allow them to this new AT&T utility box. Demand a hearing and protect our sidewalks!

Email smf@sfdpw.org and ask that they not issue a permit to install this box, and hold a hearing to review alternative solutions for the neighborhood. To see a map of all the locations where AT&T wants to install these boxes, go to: bsm.sfdpw.org/SurfaceMountedFacilities

AT&T initially proposed to install 726 private utility boxes on San Francisco sidewalks in 2011. The Board of Supervisors voted 6-5 to uphold the Planning Department’s decision that AT&T’s project did not require an Environmental Impact Report. In August 2011, San Francisco Beautiful and more than 25 neighborhood groups filed a lawsuit, which was rejected by Superior Court Judge Teri Jackson in a decision dated July 11, 2012. Neighbors now have to fight this neighborhood blight one permit at a time.

Have you considered renting your property to corporate clients or for America’s Cup? Call me today to learn how the AMSI program can work for your property!
President's Letter, cont’d

SFMTA board. In order for the Board to consider such legislation, it must first be supported by the SFMTA Board of Director’s Policy and Governance (PAG) Committee. If the idea receives the support of the PAG, then it will go before the SFMTA Board. The next meeting of the PAG is Friday, August 16 at 9am at 1 S. Van Ness Ave, Conference Room 7080. Public comment is welcome. I encourage all neighbors interested in the tour buses in our neighborhood to attend and share your comments.

If you have an interest in the neighborhood, and would like to be an advocate for Alamo Square, please consider joining the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association as a member or as a board member. We welcome new ideas, good energy and a willingness to roll up your sleeves to help make good things happen. Please email board@alamosq.org.

I look forward to seeing you at the Flea Market on the 17th! Stop by the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association booth to say hi!

See you at the Flea Market!

Lisa Zahner, President
Alamo Square Neighborhood Association

New Green Corridor and upcoming city projects

Over the next few years, several city projects in the works will enhance the safety, beauty, and quality of life of Alamo Square and its surrounding neighborhoods, including the renovation of Alamo Square Par, and new curb extensions as part of the Oak and Fell Pedestrian and Bike Safety Project. Another exciting project now in the planning phase is the Wiggle Neighborhood Green Corridor, which will improve stormwater management as well as walking and biking conditions along the Wiggle and surrounding neighborhood streets. The project is a partnership of SFDPW, SFMTA, and SFPUC.

At the first Wiggle Neighborhood Green Corridor public open house on June 11, attendees learned about the project goals of adding various green infrastructure and traffic calming features that can improve safety and stormwater management.

• Green infrastructure is a stormwater management technology that takes advantage of the natural processes of soils, plants and alternative pavements to slow down, treat, and divert stormwater runoff so it does not overwhelm the sewer system. Green infrastructure can also contribute to streetscape improvements through greening and permeable pavement.

• Traffic calming measures improve safety and comfort for people who walk, bike, and live in the neighborhood by reducing the speeds and volumes of vehicle traffic and improving visibility at intersections to ensure that roadway users yield to pedestrians.

Over the next several months the SFMTA and SFPUC will work with local residents and merchants to identify appropriate measures and prioritize neighborhood improvements. Visit our websites (www.sfmta.com/wiggle and www.sfwater.org/wigglegreencorridor) to learn more about the project, and stay tuned for an announcement for an open house this fall!

Also, please be sure to stop by the Alamo Square Flea Market on August 17th where we’ll have a booth with information about the Wiggle Neighborhood Green Corridor project between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Message from D5 Supervisor London Breed

I recently attended the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association's public safety meeting. This meeting, held in response to a tragic shooting in the area, presented an opportunity for the neighborhood to come together. I wish to offer my appreciation to ASNA for organizing this community event, and I would like to share with you what I have been doing to address the public safety concerns that were raised.

First, let me say that our Police Department is hard at work, utilizing its resources, officers, and staff members to the fullest extent, and I continue to give our officers the support they need. Currently, we have an influx of recently-graduated officers moving to Park Station, and my work on the Budget and Finance Committee this year has helped ensure that we will have no delays in graduating three new classes of officers by June 2014. Also, I recently cast the decisive vote to maintain the dedicated policing for public housing, which has fostered better partnerships with the community and reduced crime in and around high crime areas. Our officers work hard for us and we must in turn work hard to support them.

However, effective crime reduction is not just about policing, but about preventing the social circumstances that cause our youth to turn to crime. Schools and youth programs are an essential part of our community, and will remain a priority. Unfortunately, budget cuts affecting community centers such as the Booker T. Washington Community Service Center have challenged our ability to educate and bring awareness to our youth. To mitigate these cuts in funding, I advocated for and secured over $500,000 in youth services funding, including funds for transitional-aged youth (ages 18-24) and workforce development. Keeping youths engaged while offering work training and life skills helps keep kids off the streets and engages them in building a healthy and positive future.

Unemployment and poverty are always major contributors to local crime. A top priority of mine was to reestablish the One Stop Center as an efficient hub for providing unemployed members of the community with job opportunities. I am happy to say that we will soon see the fruit of that labor with the opening of the Western Addition Neighborhood Access Point (WANA). The WANA center will offer comprehensive services to a range of SF residents, with a special focus on hard-to-place employees. The jobs are available; the people are willing; and we now have an effective neighborhood resource in place to connect the dots.

Together, through community support, community policing, jobs, and opportunities for our youth, we can continue to make Alamo Square and all of District 5, a thriving, safe, and positive neighborhood in the heart of San Francisco.
Tour Bus hearing on August 16, 9 a.m.

The decisions on whether tour buses will be restricted in the Alamo Square Historic District (Divisadero, Golden Gate, Webster, and Fell) and whether the trial bus zone on Fell Street west of Divisadero Street will become permanent lies with the SFMTA Board of Directors. Jerry Robbins has been directed to bring both matters before the SFMTA Board of Director’s Policy and Governance (PAG) Committee so that this committee can become more familiar with these issues and provide the community and SFMTA staff with their guidance before proceeding with the legislative process. The Alamo Square and Fell Street issues are on the agenda for the PAG committee on Friday, August 16 at 9 a.m. The meeting will take place at SFMTA’s offices at 1 South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor, in the Union Square Conference Room, Room 7080. While no decisions will be made at this meeting, it is a good way for all concerned to provide input to the Board and get their feedback and policy direction. Public comment is welcomed at this meeting. For more information on the PAG committee, see: http://www.sfmta.com/about-sfmta/organization/divisions-and-units/policy-and-governance-committee-pag

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Events, cont’d

Thursday, August 15
SF Rec and Park Commission
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
City Hall Room 416
On the agenda: Alamo Square Water Conservation Project

Friday, August 16
Tour Bus Hearing
9 a.m. SFMTA
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor, Room 7080
Discussion on tour bus prohibition in Alamo Square historic district and tour bus loading zone trial

Tuesday, August 27
5/5L Pilot Program
6:30-8:00pm
African American Arts & Culture Complex
762 Fulton St, San Francisco
Muni wants to pilot a 5-Limited line fall 2013. Get the details at this meeting.

Important Contacts
Steve Cismowski, Manager
Rec and Parks Department
steve.cismowski@sfgov.org

Capt. Greg Corrales, SFPD
Park Station
(415) 242-3000
SFPDParkStation@sfgov.org

Capt. Greg McEachern, 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
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
August – September 2013

August
Saturday, August 17
Alamo Square Flea Market
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Scott, Hayes and Fulton

Monday, August 26, ASNA Board Meeting

September
Monday, September 23
Alamo Square General Meeting
Oasis Cafe - McAllister at Divisadero
7 p.m. Welcome; 7:30 p.m. Meeting starts

October
Saturday, October 5
Alamo Square Park Volunteer Day
9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet by the tennis court; coffee provided.
Join us for the last volunteer day of the year!

Alamo Square Online: www.alamosq.org