Tour bus battle continues

Over the last few months, the continued advocacy from neighbors to better manage the tour bus traffic around Alamo Square has led to real results. While we have not lifted our formal request to the MTA to prohibit buses over 9 passengers within the Alamo Square Historic District (which will take 6-9 months at minimum), we have made significant progress in coming to a better solution with the tour bus companies, and finding a way to welcome visitors to our neighborhood in a less-impactful way:

SF Travel is working with City Hall to craft legislation that would create “tour bus travel zones” throughout the City. This would result in an overall traffic and travel plan for buses, so that a decision in one neighborhood doesn’t result in pushing the problem down to the next neighborhood.

Preparations underway for the 29th Annual Alamo Square Flea Market

Save the date! On Saturday, August 18, 2012, ASNA will host the 29th Annual Alamo Square Flea Market. We have secured our street closure permits and vendor applications are now available online at www.alamosq.org.

Volunteers needed! Sign up to volunteer at fleamarket@alamosq.org.
New or gently used donations now being accepted (no clothing or appliances). Please contact Joe Pecora at 415-567-5197.

next meeting

General membership meetings are usually held the fourth Monday of every other month.

MONDAY, JULY 23, 2012

What: General Meeting
Where: Chateau Tivoli
1057 Steiner Street
Entrance between McAllister and Golden Gate
When: Doors open 7 p.m.
Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

save the date

Saturday, August 18
Alamo Square Flea Market
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Scott, Hayes and Fulton

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

Thursday, July 14
Divisadero Art Walk
Divisadero, between Geary and Haight

see Events >
2012 Board of Directors

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Newsletter

Editor: Gus Hernandez
Contributors: SF Rec and Park, Gus Hernandez, Emily Sass, Lisa Zahner, ASNA Board

Next deadline is June 1.
Email newsletter@alamosq.org

Advertising

Please contact Nico Lizarraga 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

Earthquake exhibit at California Academy of Sciences

Don’t miss Earthquake, a major new exhibit and planetarium show exploring the seismic science that has shaped Earth’s evolution and continues to impact our lives today.

The Shake House is back! Travel back in time to see, hear and feel two earthquakes—an updated version of one of the Academy’s most popular past exhibits—lets you experience the sustained tremors of the city’s two biggest quakes, the 6.9–magnitude Loma Prieta earthquake and the 7.9–magnitude Great San Francisco quake of 1906.

This immersive experience puts you inside the dining room of a classic Victorian-era home with a window view of San Francisco’s famed “Painted Ladies” houses of Alamo Square. You’ll travel back in time to feel the difference between these two quakes and learn useful tips on preparing for the Bay Area’s next one.
Dear Neighbors,

ASNA board members, together with representatives from the Divisadero Merchants Association met with local tour bus operators and the MTA in May, and agreed to establish a trial loading/unloading zone for tour buses on Fell Street at Divisadero (next to New Star Ell). This change will take about 6 weeks for a hearing with the MTA before it can be implemented. In the meantime, the Divisadero Merchants will create a map of Divisadero and Alamo Square, which the buses will distribute to visitors so they can walk to Alamo Square, enjoy the view and our park, and stop in at some of our fabulous Divisadero merchants along the way.

The local San Francisco-based tour companies (of the hop-on/hop-off variety) have worked together to change their routes to go either near the park, or around the park, but without letting passengers board or unboard. You may have seen some folks working their way up Hayes or Grove Street on foot. Please help by providing some directions up the hill!

We also met with SF Travel, who agreed to complete significant outreach to out-of-state or other non-San Francisco tour bus companies, to remind them of the existing laws against idling, letting people off the bus mid-block, blocking Muni bus stops, etc. SF Travel will alert these companies about the situation in our neighborhood, and encourage the buses to be mindful of the law and their impact on our small streets.

The new District 5

San Francisco recently went through a City redistricting process, resulting in new boundaries for our Supervisorial district. The new boundaries for District 5 now include Cathedral Hill, Jefferson Square Park, and Civic Center west of Van Ness Avenue, representing a more unified Western Addition. District 5 also gained part of Golden Gate Park, south and east of Kezar Drive.
We are excited by a project inspired by the Community Opportunity Fund, which enables neighborhood and parks groups to apply for grants for capital improvement projects in their parks. The Alamo Square Neighborhood Association is applying for a grant to improve the picnic table space near the tennis courts, as well as to create a nature trail from that area along the side of the hill behind the playground to the pathway below.

If we are awarded the grant, we would have a larger, more level space with more picnic tables and seating areas where the single picnic table is now. That would enable visitors to enjoy the view, as well as create an opportunity for programming, such as music in the park or special events. The area has the potential to be paved with permeable landscape pavers, which could in turn be engraved to commemorate individual contributions, neighbors, or a memorial for a beloved person or pet. Many thanks to the neighbors who attended our Community Opportunity Fund brainstorming meeting in May!

The Restroom Renovation project by SFRPD has held two community meetings to date. The goal is to make our restrooms ADA accessible for all park visitors. At our last meeting, SFRPD presented two designs (a very long winding ramp that would be ADA accessible, or a small ADA restroom near the playground). Both would impact some of the trees. Neighbors pushed to consider a third design: to alter the grading of our existing park pathways to provide an ADA accessible path to the existing restroom. We hope that this alternative will be the least-impactful to the park, and would mitigate impact on our trees.

Our 2011 Tree Study has been used by SFRPD in both the restroom renovation planning, as well as for longer term park strategy and planting planning. It is a very interesting report, which details the overall health of every large tree in Alamo Square. Most of our trees are OK. Many need a good pruning to maintain their health and ensure good growth. But some are not healthy. Others have fallen down completely!

If you are interested in learning more about our trees, and their needed maintenance, please join us for a guided Tree Walk, date TBD, in late July. It will be led by HortScience, the horticulturalists who completed our Tree Study. This is a great opportunity to ask questions of the tree professionals about the condition and care of the beautiful trees in Alamo Square.

Lisa Zahner
ASNA President
Alamo Square is scheduled for a renovated restroom, thanks to the 2008 Park Bond. The project includes new men's and women's restrooms, an accessible path to and from the restroom, signage, and related improvements, for a total construction budget of $1.2 million.

Rec and Park Project Manager Mary Hobson held the first community meeting on this topic in Spring 2012. A second community meeting was held in May, and a third meeting is anticipated in July.

Recap from Community Meeting #1

Meeting participants generally agreed on the following:

- The restroom location chosen should have minimal impact to the site.
- The Summit location was preferred over other proposed locations; however, there was concern about how the new accessible path might impact the existing site, trees, slopes, etc.
- Preferred the idea of renovating the existing restroom, if feasible.

Community Meeting #2

Meeting participants were given two options for renovating the Alamo Square restroom at the second meeting. Both options include the renovation of the existing park restroom at the Summit site.

Option 1 (shown to the right)

Full renovation and seismic upgrade of existing restroom building with new accessible ramp to the Summit. Gardener’s work and storage space is added, removing the cargo container.

Option 1: Renovate existing restroom and add an ADA-accessible ramp.
Renovate the existing restroom building without a new accessible ramp to the Summit. An alternate accessible restroom accommodation would be required under this option. A unisex restroom (shown above) would be located north of the playground, along the existing accessible path of travel to meet ADA requirements.

**Option 3**

Meeting participants ultimately wanted to see a third option: Renovate the existing restroom, with an accessible path of travel that matched the route of existing paths.

The Rec and Park presentation team will come back in July to let us know if Option 3 is feasible; otherwise, meeting participants will have to decide if they prefer Option 1 or Option 2.
 Attempted robbery and safety tips

BY EMILY SASS, ALAMO SQUARE NEIGHBOR

Around 10:15 in the morning on Wednesday, June 27th, a person or people somehow opened the locked security gate to our building. They then used a crowbar or some tool to bore a hole between the very heavy, wooden door and doorframe just enough to kick in the door, ripping down some of the inside of the door frame with it. After breaking into the building, they tried to break into a unit through one of the light wells. They were scared away, as someone was in that unit at the time. Several other occupants were also in the building. That afternoon we had contractors and locksmiths out to repair and reinforce our entries and windows.

The takeaways from this that I want to share with the neighborhood are:

• Many of the older security gates have very weak locks, or strikes. They can be picked with a credit card. After being shown how, I was able to do it in under 10 seconds. Newer strikes have been updated to make them much more difficult to pick.

• For added safety, metal lips may be added by a welder around the strike (lock) area of security gates to make it more difficult to pick even newer strikes. Both the SFPD and locksmiths recommend these.

• Holes can be bored into wooden doors to break locks, even those reinforced with metal plating in the strike/lock area. Reviewing metal plating with a locksmith is a good idea.

• The SFPD recommends adding locks designed to lock both the top and bottom panels of older, double-hung windows. These locks can be found at hardware stores.

This happened in broad daylight. It was the middle of a sunny morning on a weekday. We get lots of foot traffic on this block, so whoever did this was able to either move quickly or make it look like they should have been doing whatever they were doing.

We hope sharing our experience will help our neighbors avoid something similar happening to them.

Park Volunteer Day Schedule

Park volunteer days are scheduled throughout the year. Come out, join your neighbors, pitch in and give back to your community!

Save the Date!
Next Park Volunteer Day:
Saturday, August 4
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Email park@alamosq.org to sign up! Meet at the tennis court. Coffee provided.

Alamo Square hoodies and t-shirts

As a member of the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association, you get the best price on our hooded, zip-front, fleece-lined sweater. Machine washable, sturdy, and perfect for those brisk days and nights at Alamo Square.

Hoodies (Black or Brown)
$45 Members
$60 Non-Members

$15 T-shirts (Green, Black, or Gray)
Email us to check availability and place an order: hoodies@alamosq.org or tshirts@alamosq.org.

Green Earth Natural Foods
860 Divisadero street
San Francisco CA 94117

We’ve expanded!
Check out our larger selection

“\[quote\]
I felt a lot of confidence throughout the process knowing I was working with someone who knew their stuff inside out\[\quote\]" - Joanna S., Buyer, Noe Valley
Bike Safety Workshop on July 14

Free bike safety workshop for seniors on July 14, from 10-11 a.m., at the Golden Gate Park Senior Center.

Intro to Safe Cycling is a one-hour presentation covering the basics of everyday bicycle riding in San Francisco, including how to pick the correct lane, the rules of the road, and route planning. This course is a great introduction for people who are considering bicycling, or looking to brush up on their skills.

For more information and to RSVP for this free workshop, please call Senior Services at (415) 518-7725.

The Golden Gate Park Senior Center is located at 6101 Fulton Street @ 37th Avenue.

Munchkin Run on July 29

Bring the whole family! The San Francisco Marathon believes that fitness is important in all stages of life. The Munchkin Kids Run is an event for kids of all ages to participate in the sport we love on Race Day. All children will receive a T-shirt, our signature Dog-Tag medal, bib, and finish line food and Safeway Refresh Water. Proceeds benefit The San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center. Register now!

When: Sunday, July 29th, 2012
Time: 9:00AM
Distances: 1 mile, 1/2 mile or 100 yard dash
Cost: $25 per child
Join San Francisco NERT, Firefighters Local 798, and Laborfest for

**GET REALLY READY**

**WHAT:**  **FREE** Readiness Training with NERT

**WHEN:**  Sunday, July 8, 2012

**WHERE:**  SFFD Division of Training, 2310 Folsom Street at 19th Street (enter on 19th Street).
Street parking only. Public transit advised.

**TIMES:**  10 a.m., 1 p.m., or 3:30 p.m.

*Kids Readiness Activities throughout the day!
Bouncy House & Light Refreshments*

Join the San Francisco Neighborhood Emergency Response Team and the San Francisco Fire Department to celebrate and learn how to prepare for any emergency, large or small.

Each workshop covers what you need to know to prepare individually, as a business, and as a community, including:

- Risk Awareness
- Disaster Supplies
- Personal Disaster Planning
- Utilities Overview
- NERT Overview
- SF SAFE: Organizing your block

**RSVP** to 415-970-2024 or email sffdnert@sfgov.org with “Get Really Ready” in the subject line.
What is your home trying to tell you?
Ask Alamo Square’s #1 real estate agent.

“As Bonnie walked through my home for the very first time, I was completely blown away by her seemingly limitless knowledge of the property’s renovation history. I know they call her the “Victorian Specialist” — I had no idea she would turn out to be my very own ‘House Whisperer’ too!”

— Kristin Slye, San Francisco Home Buyer

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www.bonniespindler.com
Events, cont’d

Saturday, July 14
Seniors Bike Safety Workshop
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Golden Gate Park Senior Center
6101 Fulton Street @ 37th Avenue

Sunday, July 29
Munchkin Kids Run
9 a.m.
Distances: 1 mile, 1/2 mile or 100 yard dash

Saturday, August 4
Park Volunteer Day
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Meet near the tennis court
Coffee provided!
Email park@alamosq.org to sign up.

Important Contacts
Tom O’Connor, Manager
Rec and Parks Department
tom.o’connor@sfgov.org
(415) 218-0259

Gregory 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

ParkScan: Report park issues at ParkScan.org

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

2012 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
June – July 2012

June
Monday, June 25
ASNA Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

July
Monday, July 23
ASNA General Meeting
Chateau Tivoli, 1057 Steiner Street
Entrance between McAllister and Golden Gate
Doors open at 7 p.m., Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Save the Date
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Park Volunteer Day
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Meet near the tennis court, coffee provided

Saturday, August 18
Alamo Square Flea Market

Alamo Square Online: www.alamosq.org