SFMTA tour bus hearing on Tuesday, November 19

The SFMTA Board of Directors will hold a hearing on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 to determine whether to implement a restriction of tour buses in the Alamo Square Historic District.

SFMTA’s proposal is their solution to the growing problem of unregulated tour buses around Alamo Square. The number and frequency of tour buses on the two-way, hilly residential streets around Alamo Square, especially during the heavy tourist months, continue to create an unsafe environment.

Help us get this proposal implemented in our neighborhood. Attend the hearing and ask the MTA Commissioners to approve the plan to prohibit tour buses on all the residential streets around Alamo Square.

Seeking board members for 2014

The Alamo Square Neighborhood Association is seeking new board members to fill out the 2014 Board of Directors slate.

Let us know if you are interested in joining the board by the deadline, November 18, 2013. Email board@alamosq.org or come to our next general meeting at La Urbana on Monday, November 18, 7 p.m.

We will also be asking for volunteers for our nomination committee at the Monday meeting. Deadline for joining the nomination committee is also November 18.

Alamo Square Meeting
Where: La Urbana, 661 Divisadero at Grove
When: Welcome 7:00 p.m.
Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.
ASNA board nominee deadline

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

upcoming events

Every Saturday
Fillmore Farmers Market
9 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.

Saturday, December 7
Divisadero Art Walk
Save the Date!
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
2013 Board of Directors

Officers
Lisa Zahner, President
lisa.zahner@alamosq.org

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

Erinne Morse, Treasurer
erinne.morse@alamosq.org

Bill Bonds, Secretary
bill.bonds@alamosq.org

Board Members at Large
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Margot Frey
LaVonne Hickerson
Katrina Jankowski
Katie Kincaid
Quintin Mecke
Christian Nguyen
Owen O’Donnell
Lee Stickles
Daniel Strongwater

Newsletter

Editor: Gus Hernandez
Contributors: Colin Asher, Andrew Dudley (Haighteration.com), Gus Hernandez, Rob Joyce, Miriam Sorrell, Lisa Zahner, ASNA Board

Next deadline is December 15.
Email newsletter@alamosq.org

Advising

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

"Stop and Enjoy the Fillmore" June-Dec
FACEBOOK.COM/FILLMORESCULPTUREPROJECT

Divisadero Art Walk December 7

Mark your calendars! The Divisadero Art Walk will make its return on Saturday, December 7th, boasting art, food and fun.

The seasonal event, with over 30 participating businesses, serves as an inspiring look into the dynamic culture of the Divisadero Corridor and is a sure way to satisfy all of your art-related cravings. The winter Art Walk will occur as a full day event, running from 1pm to 6pm, to take advantage of the good weather with plenty of family friendly activities before the chilly winter ocean breeze sets in and pushes the nightlife crowd indoors.

Art Walk favorite Madrone will showcase “Great Art Starts Here,” a collection of self-portraits from all 362 of the Creative Art Charter’s talented students. Big Umbrella Studios, the burgeoning studio/gallery space and organizers of the Art Walk, will show off with live printing and small works with small prices from their savvy members.

Visitors can take advantage of the numerous one-day-only deals provided by the Divisadero merchants. With new exhibits constantly rotating on the walls of the restaurants and bars, retail shops selling locally made crafts and artisanal goods, and with the buzz surrounding the recent Open Canvas mural project that transformed the block between Hayes and Grove with knitted mannequins and living walls, the neighborhood is quickly becoming a new San Francisco hotspot for the arts.

December Art Walk is the perfect destination for arts enthusiasts, Divisadero lovers, the hungry brunch crowd, family outings, and holiday shoppers!

Look out for the Divisadero Art Walk posters appearing in merchants’ windows starting in November. Contact Sarah Woodward, Big Umbrella Studios Co-Owner, with any creative ideas and artistic inspirations for the event at info@bigumbrellastudios.com.

Green Earth Natural Foods
860 Divisadero street
San Francisco CA 94117

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

If you’ve got a penchant for rolling up your sleeves and getting things done, please consider joining the board of Alamo Square Neighborhood Association. We are seeking to build a diverse and active board and membership.

What does it take to be a board member?

1. You have to care about what is going on in your immediate neighborhood, and want to help make it better and more livable.

2. We will need you to join a committee, and perhaps head the committee. Park, Flea Market, Communications, Safety, or Transportation or Land Use. We are a working board, and we need your help!

3. You must be a member in good standing. The annual membership starts at just $15 for a basic membership. Join online at www.alamosq.org/asna/membership. Or, send a check, payable to ASNA, via snail mail to: P.O. Box 15372, San Francisco, CA 94115 (Please write Membership Dues in memo line)

4. You will need to attend regular ASNA board meetings throughout the year. We have six bi-monthly general meetings a year, and six board meet-

See President’s Letter >

Uncanny Familiarity in the Fillmore

BY COLIN ASHER, HAIPTERATION.COM

In June, the residents of the Fillmore district were suddenly joined by a 6-month-long installation of 12 different pieces by renowned sculptor Seward Johnson.

Statues from the collection, entitled, “Celebrating the Familiar,” have been placed on or around Fillmore Street between Geary and Fulton.

Johnson’s figures appear so utterly lifelike as to cause the unexpecting passerby to do a double- or triple-take. And though one can live and walk amongst these creations, it seems almost impossible to get used to them.

Munir Adem, owner of the popular Fillmore Street Cafe, offers his opinion.

“It’s amazing, people just love them. I wish there was one right outside my store,” Adem says.

Despite this affection for the statues, Adem asserts that they produce an odd effect on the mind. “After seeing [the statues] you see a real person standing still and you think Uncanny Familiarity in the Fillmore >
The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) are working together to bring traffic calming and stormwater improvements to the Wiggle.

Based on feedback from your neighbors, the SFMTA's top priority is to ensure that pedestrians crossing the street are seen and given the right-of-way by people biking and driving. The improvements described below use physical measures aimed at improving interactions at intersections by reducing speeds and increasing visibility.

In addition to the changes shown here, the SFMTA is exploring options to reduce automobile congestion on Scott Street to make it more comfortable for residents, pedestrians, and bicycle riders. Changes that restrict automobile traffic would reduce Scott Street's appeal as a cross-town route, but would maintain access to all homes and driveways as well as to people walking and bicycling. The SFMTA is studying the broader effects of such changes on the neighborhood while continuing to assess support from residents.

Please visit www.wiggle.metroquest.com to provide feedback on these options; sign up for project emails and learn about upcoming outreach at www.sfmta.com/wiggle. If you have specific questions or comments for the project team, contact Miriam Sorell at miriam.sorell@sfmta.com.

1. Bulb-outs extend the sidewalk at intersections, reducing the distance to cross the street and increasing visibility between pedestrians and people in the roadway. Rain gardens that are incorporated into bulb-outs can capture stormwater that runs off the streets and add nature space.

2. Permeable pavement and new street paving techniques can allow stormwater to soak through the roadway and into the ground.

3. Raised crosswalks bring the level of the roadway to that of the sidewalk, highlighting to drivers and bicyclists that they are entering a pedestrian space.

4. Speed reduction bars use narrow strips of textured paint to slow bicycle speeds when they approach pedestrian crosswalks.

5. Treatments could follow the Wiggle route or could follow a more residential route that includes Pierce and Page.
they are also a statue.” This peculiar effect is hard to shake off.

Artist Johnson has gone through such painstaking care to make his statues realistic, he has even included details of human messiness, such as faux spilled relish on the stand of his hotdog vendor piece, and corresponding garbage for the garbage sweeper:

Part of the joy of the project is that the statues are very cleverly placed, allowing you to bump into them when you least expect it. This grocery shopper waits for a bus to arrive near the local post office.

These modern art pieces, whose completion dates span from the 70s to today, certainly have gotten people in the Fillmore to stop and look, challenging the viewer in the way contemporary art often does.

Alike, a Starbucks employee, asserts that “they are kind of scary,” and that the community’s homeless can sometimes be seen talking and interacting with the statues. Her coworker, Jaime, also says that “they are freaky at night.”

Despite these qualities, the prevailing opinion seems to be that the statues are a multicultural triumph for this eclectic district.

Local resident Quentin, who runs an Estee Lauder cosmetics stand next to a statue of a young African-American girl, notes that the statues are weather-impermeable and are painted with a solid, 3-D ink.

“Forty years ago District Five used to be the hottest spot,” Quentin explains, “things like this help bring it back to notice.”

haighteration.com/2013/10/uncanny-familiarity-in-the-fillmore.html
HealthRIGHT 360 at Hayes and Fillmore

BY ROB JOYCE, HEALTHRIGHT 360

The large Victorian building at 890 Hayes Street has gone through some major transformations. Originally a convent, it briefly served as City Hall after the 1906 earthquake, and eventually fell into disuse until the late 1980’s. At that point, it was acquired by Walden House, when its physical transformation into a vocational training center foreshadowed the personal transformations that are now happening for its residents every day.

Walden House and Haight Ashbury Free Clinics merged in 2011 to form HealthRIGHT 360, and 890 Hayes Street is one of the organization’s largest facilities. It houses a residential program that serves up to 115 men at any given time, most living there from six to twelve months. Clients receive treatment for substance use disorder, and some also have co-occurring mental health disorders, and/or HIV/AIDS. Program services address addiction and related issues, increase skills, manage stressors, develop meaningful links to needed services, facilitate family reunification, and build a foundation for lasting recovery.

Residents have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in neighborhood activities, including Alamo Square Park clean-up days. HealthRIGHT 360 and the men of 890 Hayes Street are proud to be part of this beautiful and historic neighborhood.

To learn more about HealthRIGHT 360 please visit www.healthright360.com.
President's Letter, cont’d

ings. Meetings are typically the fourth Monday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend board meetings, but only boardmembers may vote.

What do you get in return?

1. A say in how we, as a neighborhood association, do things, and help to focus our energy on important efforts and issues in our neighborhood.

2. Great involvement in your community! You’ll have an opportunity to work closely with SFRPD on parks issues, with Supervisor Breed and SFPD for Safety, our local merchants on Fillmore and Divisadero, etc.

3. Quality time spent with other passionate neighbors who want to keep a safe, thriving and inclusive Alamo Square.

Thank you for considering serving your neighborhood!

Please contact the board at board@alamosq.org and let us know you’re interested. We’ll take it from there!

The application deadline is November 18th!

Lisa Zahner, President
Alamo Square Neighborhood Association

5 Fulton Short Line and 5L Fulton Limited Service Overview Weekdays 7am-7pm*
*At all other times 5 Fulton makes all stops between Ocean Beach and Temporary Transbay Terminal

5L Fulton Limited trial begins

Weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Beginning October 28, 2013

SFMTA is conducting a 12-month pilot program designed to make your Muni experience faster, more reliable, and more comfortable. See the map above to learn how this pilot affects your trips!

As part of the SFMTA’s Transit Effectiveness Project’s (TEP) 5 Fulton travel time reduction proposal, the 5 Fulton will be replaced by a 5 Fulton short line and a 5L Fulton Limited for a pilot period. Some stops will change.

The 5 Fulton Short Line motor coach service makes all stops on the 5 Fulton route between the Temporary Transbay Terminal to Sixth Avenue and Fulton, plus two stops on the terminal loop.

The 5L Fulton Limited trolleybus service follows the previous 5 Fulton trolley coach route, except that it will make limited stop service, inbound, between Fulton & 6th Avenue and McAllister & Leavenworth, and outbound between McAllister & Jones and Fulton & 6th Avenue.

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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
New Apartments, Restaurants on Divisadero?

BY ANDREW DUDLEY, HAIGHTERATION.COM

A five-story building with not one but two restaurants could be coming to the southeast corner of Divisadero and Grove.

The owner of the property at 650 Divisadero is exploring the idea, according to a Preliminary Project Assessment (PPA) conducted by the SF Planning Department last month.

The project would involve partially demolishing the Alouis Auto Radiator building, and replacing it with a new construction featuring nine residential units and three commercial spaces, two of which would be restaurants. There would also be nine underground parking spaces, and a roof deck serving the two restaurants. As SocketSite notes, the facade of the auto shop, which was constructed in 1922, would be maintained.

Before property owners undertake projects like this, they can apply for a PPA from the Planning Department. The PPA assesses the project, and informs the applicants of any potential hurdles they might encounter if they were to proceed. Just because a PPA is conducted doesn’t mean a project will break ground any time soon, if at all. (See Lee’s Meat / Popular Market, for example.)

In this case, the Planning Department identified a few potential concerns:

They would like to see more than nine residential units. A building of this size in this area is zoned for as many as 16 units.

Given that the site is currently used for industrial purposes (auto repair), there would have to be an assessment of any contamination in the soil and groundwater.

Currently, restaurants on Divisadero are only zoned to operate on the ground floor, meaning the roof deck concept would be illegal. That may change soon though, with efforts to create a Divisadero Commercial Zoning District in the works.

No word on when this project would get underway, and again, it may never get underway at all. We’ll be watching. haighteration.com/2013/10/new-apartments-restaurants-on-divisadero.html
Divisadero Neighborhood Commercial District to adopt new formula retail rule

BY GUS HERNANDEZ, ALAMO SQUARE NEWSLETTER

Earlier this year, the San Francisco Planning Commission re-approved the Ordinance establishing the Divisadero Neighborhood Commercial District, but added new stipulations regarding formula retail in the area.

The new named commercial district offers Divisadero tailor-made Planning Code regulations. Planning Commissioners voted 5-1 (with Commissioner Antonini dissenting and Commission President Fong absent) to send the revised ordinance to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Divisadero's new name now comes with formula retail modifications, requiring a pre-application notice and adopting the “300-foot-20-percent” formula retail rule created for the Upper Market Commercial District. Initially, the revised Ordinance called for a formula retail ban on Divisadero. Under the 300-20 rule, Planning Department staff will recommend disapproval of a formula retail proposal whenever 20 percent or more of existing retail frontage within a 300-foot radius of the applicant's site is already formula retail.
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Events, cont’d

Tuesday, November 19
Tour Bus Hearing
1 p.m. SFMTA Board of Directors hearing
City Hall Room 400
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco
Hearing regarding the tour bus prohibition requested for streets between Divisadero, Fell, Webster, Golden Gate Ave.

Saturday, December 7
Alamo Square/North of Panhandle Holiday Party
Save the Date!
Cyprian's Arc/ Downstairs room at St. Cyprians, at Turk and Lyon Streets. Join us for a fun evening! Music and a great atmosphere add to this growing tradition.

Monday, December 16
ASNA Board Meeting
7 p.m.

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
å
☐ 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
October – November 2013

October
Monday, October 21, ASNA Board Meeting

November
Monday, November 18
Alamo Square General Meeting
La Urbana, 661 Divisadero at Grove
7 p.m. Welcome; 7:30 p.m. Meeting starts

Tuesday, November 19
Tour Bus Hearing
1 p.m.
SFMTA Board of Directors Hearing
City Hall Room 400
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

Alamo Square Online: www.alamosq.org