Tour bus restrictions start Jan. 15

BY GUS HERNANDEZ, ALAMO SQUARE NEWSLETTER

At the SFMTA Board of Directors hearing on November 19, 2013, the MTA Board unanimously approved the proposal to restrict tour buses in the Alamo Square Historic District. With support from Supervisor London Breed’s office, neighbors made the case for improving safety on the small two-way streets surrounding the park by restricting tour buses. Tour buses will still be allowed on Fell Street, with a loading zone at Fell and Pierce.

The restriction includes all the residential streets between Divisadero, Fell, Webster, and Golden Gate Avenue.

Signs will go up in the neighborhood on January 15, 2014 according to SFMTA staff. Enforcement begins on that date. For enforcement issues, please notify SFPD at (415) 553-0123.

AT&T box on Scott Street may conflict with tax-funded beautification efforts

DPW Director Mohammed Nuru has issued a rejection of AT&T’s application to install a U-Verse utility box on Scott Street near Oak. The Director’s disapproval of the request to install the cabinet was due to its potential conflict with taxpayer-paid plans to green and beautify the sidewalk via the Wiggle Neighborhood Green Corridor project. The Wiggle Green Corridor project aims to enhance livability and safety along the Wiggle bicycle route.

AT&T was directed to work with the Wiggle Neighborhood Green Corridor Project Manager and Project Engineer to identify whether the proposed location can be successfully integrated into the project, and then to re-submit the site or an alternate site for review.
Residential Permit Parking update

Source: SFMTA

The SFMTA has completed its data collection with the potential residential permit parking area’s study boundaries. The study area is bounded by Webster Street, Page Street, Masonic Avenue, and Golden Gate Avenue (between Webster and Broderick) and McAllister Street (between Broderick and Masonic).

The data collection effort was extensive and required a team of people to collect vehicle license plate data throughout a typical day on every street within the study area boundaries. The data was collected in December before the holiday season. SFMTA staff is now cross-checking every license plate recorded in the study area with vehicle registration information from the California Department of Motor Vehicles. This unfortunately is a slow process, with security and confidentiality checks in place. Residents can be assured that no confidential information is being collected.

After the parking data has been analyzed, this information will be shared with the neighborhood to indicate whether or not the criteria for establishing residential permit parking regulations have been met. It will probably take at least two more months to complete the evaluation of the data and the preparation of presentation materials to the neighborhood.

The SFMTA will keep the neighborhood posted with further progress.

Employer bus regulations coming soon

Now that we have a plan to address the tour buses in the Alamo Square neighborhood, the next question is, “What about the Google buses?”

ASNA requested that employer buses be kept exempt from the tour bus regulations. Unlike tour buses, employer buses serve the needs of the people who live in this neighborhood, helping to get them to and from work; employer buses alleviate our streets by keeping single occupancy vehicles off the road; and, employer buses do not slow down to create traffic on Hayes Street for a photo op.

However, employer buses do use Muni bus stops to load and unload passengers, causing friction with the SF public transportation system. Our neighborhood presents unique challenges with its steep hills.

The SFMTA Board of Directors will be voting on January 21 on a pilot program designed to regulate the employer buses throughout the City. SFMTA will collect $1 per stop per day, projected to $1.5 million over 18 months, the cost it would take to run the program. This minimum amount is required per government regulations.

Under the pilot program proposed by SFMTA, 200 Muni stops would become approved employer bus loading zones. The fees would pay for the administration of the program only, as state law only allows the fees to be used for that purpose.

Public comment will be accepted at the January 21 SFMTA Board of Directors hearing.
Dear Neighbors,

This is my last “Letter from the President,” as I am stepping down from the Board of Directors of the Alamo Square Neighborhood Association at the end of January. During my six years on the board, I have enjoyed the positive change we have worked on together as a community, and most importantly, I am gratified to have been able to get to know and work alongside the other board members of the Neighborhood Association.

Serving on a neighborhood board or volunteering in your community is a great way to directly impact where you live. It takes time, commitment, and hard work. It also takes a vision and a desire to make a difference. I’d like to recognize the hard work of all of our board members, particularly those that are also stepping down from the board: Erinne Morse, Katie Kincaid and Christian Nguyen.

Eринne Morse is a tireless and dedicated Alamo Square advocate. Erinne has served as the ASNA treasurer for three years. She also served as Flea Market Chair for several years. Erinne was a key champion of the tour bus prohibition, and she attended countless meetings and hearings with the MTA. These are big jobs; Erinne has managed them with grace and aplomb – Thank you, Erinne!

Though a board member for just one year, Katie Kincaid brought great energy and new ideas to our meetings. Katie enthusiastically rolls up her sleeves to make things happen, and she shows up at the exact moment when needed.

Letter from the president

2014 ASNA Board of Directors slate

The 2014 ASNA Board of Directors slate, as selected by the ASNA nomination committee, is as follows (asterisks note new board member for 2014); ASNA members will vote for the new board at the Alamo Square General Meeting on Monday, January 27, 2014.

Officers
Gus Hernandez, President
Katrina Jankowski, Vice President
Bill Bonds, Secretary
Mary Bosworth, Treasurer

Board Members at Large
John Dallas
Margot Frey Cusenbery
LaVonne Hickerson
Michael Lombardo*
Robert Mason III*
Quintin Mecke
Owen O’Donnell
Jimena Saravia*
Lee Stickles
Daniel Strongwater
Sunnylyn Thibodeaux*

2014 ASNA Board of Directors slate
President's Letter, cont’d

Christian Nguyen served on our board for three years. He is our consistent Flea Market Raffle prize go-to man! Christian also served as our Neighborhood Ambassador for the Bay to Breakers for several years.

We have a wonderful, strong and diverse board slate proposed for our 2014 Board of Directors. I am confident our new board members will bring great energy and ideas to furthering our neighborhood interests.

Our projects over the past few years have been impactful:

**Tour Buses** – We succeeded in our request to prohibit large (more than nine passenger) tour buses within the Alamo Square Historic District. We believe this is a safety issue, and we are so pleased the MTA does, too.

**Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming** – We worked with the MTA to implement more “daylighting” (space at the end of a curb) so that pedestrians waiting at crosswalks around Alamo Square would be more visible to cars. We are actively involved with the MTA in the plans around the Wiggle Bike Route to improve safety for pedestrians and bike riders, and find ways for calming traffic on our busy streets.

**Tree Study and Park Long-Term Planning** – ASNA commissioned a study of all the trees in the park, to determine their overall health and assist in developing a planting plan for new trees as old ones reach the end of their lifecycle. Our tree study has been used by the SF Recreation and Park Department in planning for the new irrigation and new restrooms at Alamo Square.

**Fire Fundraiser** – Together with the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association and the Divisadero Merchants’ Association, we raised over $25,000 to help our neighbors displaced by the December 2011 fire at Golden Gate and Pierce. Many neighbors and the Chateau Tivoli offered places to stay, and many more donated clothes and other items.

**Weekly Playgroups** – If you’ve got young kids, come to the weekly playgroup every Tuesday morning at the playground! We’ve got about 30 regulars and it’s lots of fun!

**Farmers’ Market** – Jointly sponsored by the North of Panhandle and Alamo Square Neighborhood Associations, each group contributed to cover the cost of the original permit and street closure fees. Today, the farmers’ market attracts an average of 2,000 people every Sunday morning! It has become the place to be.

**Public Art** – ASNA provided funding for the mural at Fell and Scott, and the giant mosaic along the retaining wall on Fell and Pierce. Do you remember those walls when they were repeatedly tagged and covered in graffiti? Now, they are beautiful!

**Drinking Fountain Replacement** – After thieves stole our beautiful drinking fountain bowls, ASNA purchased the replacements, and neighbor Thomas Duane helped reattach them – super securely!

I am very much looking forward to the redesign of Alamo Square’s irrigation system, and the new restroom planned for our park. We will be applying for the upcoming Community Opportunity Fund, to redevelop the picnic table area near the tennis courts into a more level space, with more tables and lighting. This would help to activate this space, with easier access for picnics, gatherings, birthday parties, and more.

Do you have some ideas about the park or our neighborhood? Something you’d like to see happen here, or a project you would like to lead? A kids’ Halloween parade from Alamo Square to Grove/Baker Street? A cafe in the park? Neighborhood Emergency Response Training? Croquet? A tricycle race? You name it... the opportunity is here, and your engagement with ASNA can help make things happen.

I wish you and your family a safe, joyful and healthy 2014!

Lisa Zahner, President
Alamo Square Neighborhood Association
Cyclist Injured in Hit and Run at Oak and Scott

BY NUJALA SAWYER, HAIGHTERATION.COM

A female cyclist was hit on Sunday night [January 5, 2014] biking along the Wiggle through the Oak and Scott intersection, making it the second known hit and run at that intersection in the past few weeks.

Shortly after 9 p.m. on January 5th, a dark grey sedan heading south on Scott Street turned left onto Oak, colliding with the cyclist in the middle of the intersection before taking off. The victim, a 26-year-old female, escaped with minor injuries, though was nearly run over by the car as it sped away from the scene.

Witnesses on the scene gave statements to police, but the identity of the driver and the make and model of the car are still unknown. SFPD Officer Albie Esparza told us that, “given the fact that it occurred early in the night and it’s a pretty busy street, there’s a good chance someone somewhere might have seen something.” Of particular interest is a car that chased after the sedan in pursuit of a license plate number, but never returned to the scene.

Anyone who has information on the collision, or a business that may have video footage of that intersection, is encouraged to call SFPD’s anonymous tip line at 415-731-2865.

Oak and Scott is the same location where a pedestrian was seriously injured in a hit and run in the beginning of December, and where a cyclist was assaulted in May of 2012. SFMTA has identified it in the past as being a problematic intersection, which recent events have confirmed.

Despite being home to the first green bicycle box in the city, the safety of pedestrians and cyclists continues to be an issue at this intersection that thousands pass through every day.


Fatal collision at Oak and Steiner

BY ANDREW DUDLEY, HAIGHTERATION.COM

A motorcycle driver is dead tonight [December 2, 2013] after colliding with a vehicle at the intersection of Oak and Steiner.

Police report that the crash took place around 8:30 p.m. The motorcyclist was seen Oak Street Collisions >
Former Supervisor Olague Displaced by Christmas Fire

BY ANDREW DUDLEY, HIGHTERATION.COM

That Christmas night fire, which claimed the life of one resident and seriously injured another, apparently displaced a third: former District 5 Supervisor Christina Olague.

SFist brings word that Olague was housemates with the two men who were injured in the fire, though was not injured herself.

The Bay Guardian spoke with Olague, who says she had been living in the Victorian at 618 Baker for the past 4 years, and had been friends with residents Patrick Ferry and Randy Sapp for more than 15 years.

Sapp and Ferry were co-owners of Cole Valley shop The Sword and Rose. They had just completed nearly three years’ worth of renovations on the building when the fire broke out. As we reported last week, Sapp succumbed to his injuries, while Ferry remains in the hospital but is expected to recover.

As for resident Patrick Ferry, we haven’t heard of any specific fundraising efforts, but Ferry told NBC that people have stepped up to help reopen his store while he recovers. He added that he is “planning a ceremony in the courtyard with lots of flowers and fancy stone work” to honor Randy, his partner of 29 years.

A fundraising page has been created to help Olague “with getting a new apartment and getting back on her feet again.” There will also be a benefit at El Rio next Sunday, January 12th, with several of Olague’s fellow Supervisors expected to attend.

Olague, who previously served as president of the SF Planning Commission, was appointed Supervisor of District 5 in January of 2012 after Ross Mirkarimi stepped down to become Sheriff. Readers of Haighteration may recall our interview with then-Supervisor Olague back in April of 2012. Olague lost the seat in November of that year to London Breed.

As for resident Patrick Ferry, we haven’t heard of any specific fundraising efforts, but Ferry told NBC that people have stepped up to help reopen his store while he recovers. He added that he is “planning a ceremony in the courtyard with lots of flowers and fancy stone work” to honor Randy, his partner of 29 years.

www.haighteration.com/2014/01/former-supervisor-olague-displaced-by-christmas-fire.html

Fire Shutters Yoga Loft/The Other Shop

BY ANDREW DUDLEY, HIGHTERATION.COM

Two shops on Divisadero between Page and Oak are closed indefinitely due to damage from yesterday morning’s fire [December 20, 2013].

The Other Shop at 327 Divisadero seems to have suffered extensive damage to its inventory of vintage furniture and clothing. Its windows, which normally showcase a variety of mid-century items, are empty, while a pile of charred debris awaits removal on the sidewalk outside.

Upstairs, The Yoga Loft (321 Divisadero) has also closed, though a sign posted on the studio’s gate expresses hope that the closure will be brief.

There’s no word yet on the cause of the fire. When we get more information on that, or on future plans for either of these businesses, we’ll update accordingly.

http://www.haighteration.com/2013/12/fire-shutters-yoga-loft-the-other-shop.html
Growing Divisadero's Community Garden

BY NUALA SAWYER, HAIGHTERATION.COM

Did you know that Divisadero has a community garden?

Occupying the corner of Divisadero and Eddy, the New Liberation Community Garden is a collaboration between the New Liberation Presbyterian Church (who owns the land) and Neighbors Developing Divisadero (who you may recall from their efforts to preserve the Harding Theater).

Launched by Amy Farrah Weiss, NDDivis’s latest venture truly reflects their goal to “protect, support, and strengthen what we love about the Divisadero Neighborhood District.”

A former community garden, the space had been abandoned for eight years and was overgrown with sour grass when Amy first discovered it. Scavenging plants from UCSF’s Community Garden and the now-defunct Hayes Valley Farm, she got the garden in motion earlier this year.

Over the summer, members of the church and the surrounding neighborhood planted spinach, brussel sprouts, arugula and fava beans – the latter of which are just starting to appear.

So far, it’s already living up to its goal of being a vibrant part of the community. Jimmy Flowers, whose tribute gardens you may have seen adorning Haight Street, is participating in its growth (and is currently working on an homage to Van Halen in the space). Chocolato the rabbit is brought over a couple times a week by her owner to run freely. A fundraiser was held for Marcus Books to help them buy back their space. And there have been zumba classes and origami sessions at the garden.

So how can you get involved? Lots of ways.

First, check out the open hours. Looking to get your hands dirty and do some weeding, or for a quiet spot to read in the sun? Head on over between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Secondly, the garden is looking for people to host garden hours and activities. If you’d like to see the garden open more frequently, volunteer to host open hours one afternoon (we have to admit, sitting amongst the flowers for a couple of hours doesn’t sound too bad). Or do you teach yoga, and want to host an outside class? Bring your ideas for the space.

Finally, calling all artists! The raised beds are weather-beaten and could use a splash of creativity to brighten things up. There’s also room for art installations, and in the past they’ve even constructed a stage for performances.

If you have a project in mind, email info@nddivis.org or fill out the online form to get the ball rolling.

http://www.haighteration.com/2013/12/divisaderos-community-garden.html

“...throughout the process knowing I was working with someone who knew their stuff inside out”

— Joanna S., Buyer, Noe Valley

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kho@vanguardsf.com
www.kevinho.org
Lic. #01485512
Oak Street Collisions, cont'd

Pedestrian seriously injured in hit and run at Oak and Scott

BY ANDREW DUDLEY, HAIGHTERATION.COM

A man received serious injuries Tuesday night [December 3] after being hit by a car at the intersection of Oak and Scott Streets.

According to SFPD spokesman Albie Esparza, the incident was reported around 8:54 p.m. Tuesday night. A car traveling eastward on Oak Street at a “pretty fast” rate ran a red light, and hit a pedestrian in the crosswalk. The car, the make and model of which are unknown, continued driving away from the scene, according to Esparza.

The victim, described as a 25 year old male, was transported to SFGH with life threatening injuries. We don’t know his condition at this time, although a friend claims that he is in the intensive care unit.

This comes just 24 hours after a collision two blocks east at Oak and Steiner which claimed the life of motorcyclist Bill Beckwith.

Anyone who may have witnessed either incident is asked to call the SFPD’s anonymous tip line at 415-575-4444.


MUSIC. ART. DRINKS.

Support local merchants. Shop & drink in the neighborhood.
500 Divisadero Street (at Fell)  www.madroneartbar.com
Alamo Square off-limits between midnight and 5 a.m.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 6-5 late last year in favor of closing all City parks, including Alamo Square, between midnight and 5 a.m.

District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener's legislation is an attempt to prevent vandalism and illegal dumping in City parks, which costs more than $900,000 each year according to the SF Recreation and Parks Department. Homeless rights advocates countered that the legislation primarily affects people who sleep in Golden Gate Park overnight.

Violators will face a fine of up to $100 for a first offense, with escalating fines and a possible misdemeanor conviction for subsequent offenses. Justin Herman Plaza, Union Square, and Civic Center Plaza, are exempt under the legislation.

Vehicles using the roads that cut through, and pedestrians using sidewalks adjacent to roads for the purpose of traversing the following parks, are exempt from the legislation: Golden Gate Park, McLaren Park, Balboa Park, and Lincoln Park.

There is also an exception for bikes and pedestrians using pathways to traverse the Panhandle.

The legislation was opposed by District 5 Supervisor London Breed, as well as John Avalos, David Campos, Jane Kim, and Eric Mar.
San Francisco’s Victorian Specialist for over 20 years.

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Events, cont’d

Thursday, January 16
Joint Board of Supervisors and SFPD Commission Hearing
5 - 7 p.m.
City Hall, Room 250
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco

Tuesday, January 21
Employer Bus Hearing
1 p.m.
SFMTA Board of Directors hearing
City Hall Room 400
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco

Park Volunteer Day Schedule
Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
February 1, 2014
April 5, 2014
June 7, 2014
August 2, 2014
October 4, 2014

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.

Your Source for Qualified Tenants

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

2014 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

Make checks payable to: ASNA, Box 15372, San Francisco, CA 94115

Indicate areas of interest:
☐ Park Volunteer Days
☐ Alamo Square Flea Market Volunteer
☐ Transportation & Pedestrian Safety
☐ Neighborhood Socials and Events
☐ Other __________________________
January
Monday, January 27, 2014
Alamo Square General Meeting
Oasis Cafe, 901 Divisadero at McAllister
7 p.m. Welcome; 7:30 p.m. Meeting starts

Agenda
Election of the 2014 ASNA Board of Directors
MTA Presentation: Re-opening crosswalk at Hayes and Pierce
Community Opportunity Fund project: Alamo Square Picnia Area Plan

Alamo Square Online: www.alamosq.org