

North Panhandle



North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

January/February 2006

Workshops to plan future of Divisadero corridor

Neighbors invited to participate in planning process



Everyone who lives, works, or takes an interest in the North Panhandle area is invited to take part in a series of community planning workshops for the lower Divisadero commercial district. Scheduled for 6:30 PM on February 8, March 8, April 19, and May 31, the meetings will be held between Haight and Eddy, at specific locations to be announced. Workshop discussion topics are listed at the bottom of this article.

The goal of the planning project is to support existing neighborhood merchants, residents, and property owners by improving the commercial and social center of the neighborhood while ensuring its stability. The process will be an inclusive, community-driven effort that offers individuals and neighborhood organizations a chance to develop a vision for the district and recommend actions to make it a reality.

The meetings will be hosted by the San Francisco Mayor's Office for Economic and Workforce Development (MOEWD), in partnership with nonprofit organizations Bay Area Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and Asian Neighborhood Design, and in coordination with Supervisor Mirkarimi's office, the Department of City Planning, the

Mayor's Greening Initiative, the Department of Public Works, and the Metropolitan Transportation Agency.



Issues to be addressed include physical appearance, development and promotion of local businesses, neighborhood community building, traffic management, cleanliness, safety, and other activities designed to help Divisadero better serve its merchants and nearby residents.

The process will culminate in a Community Action Plan, the roadmap for implementing the activities identified as priorities by the community.

Divisadero is also one of the neighborhood commercial districts selected as a potential candidate for funding from the Mayor's Greening Initiative, a program to plant trees and implement streetscape improvements citywide. If identified by community members as a priority, the remainder of the process will include getting input on the design and maintenance of these improvements.

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**NOPNA General Meeting:
THURSDAY, JAN. 19**
CAFE NEON
801 McAllister (at Baker)
7 PM: Meet & Greet
7:30-9 PM: General Meeting



President's Corner

Learning through Community Service

By Tys Sniffen

As I enter my eighth year here in NoPa and my seventh year on the NOPNA board, I can look back and reflect on the many important things I've learned in both environments—lessons that apply equally well and transfer easily to other aspects of my life.

When I first joined the board, more experienced members taught me that the organization constantly needs to strive for inclusion, balance, and diversity. By placing these goals at the forefront of every project, we can guide our actions with the whole community in mind.

Our neighborhood, like most in San Francisco, is made up of many different voices and experiences. Starting with that observation, we recognize that the quickest, most efficient solution to a community problem, or the solution that appears most valid from our own personal perspective, isn't always the best one. The process is longer and more complex: It involves balancing the needs and objectives of the greatest possible number of people. Research, dialogue, compromise, and negotiation are time-consuming and sometimes exhausting. But they usually lead to more successful outcomes.

Further, working with the collective welfare in mind brings people together, rather than dividing and isolating them. All community issues, from personal safety to business development, tree planting to historic preservation, are potentially divisive. San Franciscans are scrappy folks to begin with, and in a neighborhood as diverse as ours, even the most innocuous issues can lead to major disputes.

NOPNA can (and must) take a position on contentious issues that require action, but it can't be guided by a specific set of interests or ideologies. It isn't a political or religious group, a homeowners or renters association, a pro-business or anti-development lobby, a force for law-and-order or collective self-rule. It's a community group, working to achieve clarity, consensus, and solutions that benefit the greatest number of residents. That means getting everybody involved in the process. Insofar as we succeed at doing that, I believe we do a better job of building for the future.

Another important lesson I learned from serving on the NOPNA board is that, by working with people in many different areas, we can get a lot of things done. I used to believe the essential thing was to know who ran what at City Hall and connect with leaders of different community groups. That way, I thought we would know "who to call" when neighborhood problems came up. After a while I came to realize that cultivating such relationships is much less important than getting to know your neighbors, understanding their various perspectives, and translating this knowledge into action. That's what it means to participate authentically in the life of a community. Unless we do this, all the important connections in the world won't help.

Continued next page

North Panhandle NEWS is published for the community, businesses, and friends of our neighborhood, bounded by Turk Street, Divisadero Street, Fell Street, and Masonic Avenue.

Publisher: NOPNA Board of Directors
Managing Editor: Andrew de Vries
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NOPNA's mission: The purpose of this association shall be to establish neighborhood unity, maintain multi-ethnic and multi-cultural diversity, foster a sense of neighborhood pride, promote a safe and clean community, and improve the quality of life for all residents of the neighborhood.

CONTACT NOPNA: PO Box 591504
San Francisco, CA 94159-1504
415-267-6113 • Email: nopna@nopna.org

GET the NEWS? —PAY your DUES!

The NOPNA newsletter depends on contributions from YOU—association members and community residents—to keep you informed about events, activities, and initiatives going on in our great neighborhood. Please DUE your share! Sign up at our next meeting, or fill out the membership form on the next page.



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Learning through Community Service (from page 2)

One more strategy I've picked up from working as a NOPNA board member and neighborhood activist is to listen more closely to people who get involved and lend a hand than to those who always comment but never seem to be ready to put energy behind their opinions. Seven years of experience dealing with community issues have given me a strong respect for people who are willing to "walk the talk." At a certain point, things need to get done, and it's individuals who do them. Their voice counts, because they put their money where their mouth is.

I now realize, with some astonishment (and I may be slower than most, since it took me seven years to figure it out!) that all these lessons are applicable to other aspects of my life. What I have learned from NOPNA, I'll carry with me into my professional and personal activities, and into my involvement in other communities where I may reside in years to come. So, my advice to everybody who lives among other people—and that describes almost everybody—is simple: Strive to understand their perspectives, get involved, walk the talk, work hard, have fun.

See you in the streets.
—Tys



Future of Divisadero Planning Workshops (from page 1)

Meeting locations will be posted on the Web sites of neighborhood associations.

February 8, 6:30 PM – Workshop #1:

Community's vision for Divisadero

March 8, 6:30 PM – Workshop #2:

Prioritizing improvements

April 19, 6:30 PM – Workshop #3:

Implementation strategies

May 31, 6:30 PM – Workshop #4:

Realizing the Plan—finalizing elements, developing working groups

If you have questions about the project, please contact MOEWD Project Manager Rich Hillis at (415) 554-4082, rich.hillis@sfgov.org or LISC Project Manager Desirée Sideroff at (415) 397-7322 x20, dsideroff@lisc.org.

Benefactors to the rescue

As NOPNA residents may be aware, due to budgetary restrictions we did not publish the November/December edition of this newsletter. (Instead, we issued a single-page flyer.) A front-page article in our September-October issue described the problem: In order to meet the costs of producing NOPNA News on a regular, bimonthly schedule, we would either have to increase dues-paying membership to 350—a difficult goal to meet in the short term—or find new sources of support.



Matt Lanning

The NOPNA board is making valiant efforts to expand membership this year. There are lots of good reasons to join the organization; one of them is to help support this newsletter, which has been published regularly for more than six years. (Please consider becoming a member, either by filling out the form on the left and sending it in with your check, or by paying online at our secure Web site page www.nopna.org.)



Mollie Poe

In the meantime, two generous neighbors have come forward as benefactors in our time of need! Matt Lanning and Mollie Poe, both real estate professionals and long-time NOPNA supporters (among other things, Mollie sponsored the wildly popular Punch & Judy Show at last summer's NOPNA Street Party, and Matt has played a leading role on our nominating committee for board elections) approached NOPNA separately and offered to pitch in.

Thanks to Mollie and Matt, our newsletter has a new lease on life! Our organization, and the entire community, owe them a debt of gratitude. As partial thanks for their kindness, we will be featuring ads and/or columns by Matt and Mollie on the back page of NOPNA News this year. We encourage all who are seeking real estate services to get in touch with them.

GET ACTIVE! Your NOPNA membership gives us a stronger voice at City Hall and supports our efforts to create a clean, safe, and friendly neighborhood.

Membership is open to everyone residing or interested in the area within our boundaries: Divisadero, Masonic, Fell, and Turk.

Please complete the following information:

Name

Address

Phone(s)

E-mail

Interests

Annual dues (payable to NOPNA):
\$25 Individual / \$30 Family / \$50 Mover
/ \$100 Shaker

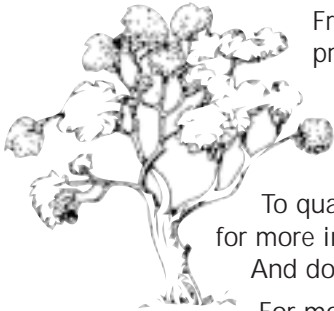
Please send this form to:
NOPNA, PO Box 591504,
San Francisco, CA 94159-1504,
or phone (415) 267-6113.

Street Tree Planting

North of Panhandle (NoPa) neighborhood—Planting area:
Turk to Hayes and Central to Divisadero

You are invited to plant a tree in front of your house or building. The cost for this service is normally over \$300 if done on your own, but San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) is offering it at a subsidized rate, for only \$150. This price also includes two post-planting tree care visits.

ACT NOW WHILE FUNDING IS STILL AVAILABLE!



Friends of the Urban Forest will help you select the right tree for your location; process the permits; check for utilities; remove concrete; and supply the tree, tools, materials, and experienced planting volunteers.

Tree planting also offers a chance to meet your neighbors and enjoy a potluck lunch with them right after the planting.

To qualify, a minimum of 25–30 neighborhood residences must participate. To sign up, or for more information, contact your neighborhood organizer, Yola Ozturk, at 415-516-7138. And don't forget to tell your neighbors!

For more information about Friends of the Urban Forest, visit www.fuf.net.

TREES HELP TO:

- Reduce air and water pollution
- Reduce energy costs
- Increase your property value
- Beautify the neighborhood
- Block wind and absorb noise
- Build community spirit!

Party Scene

We had such a successful year of parties in 2005 that we are planning more for this year! Here are a few events to look forward to:

May: Neighborhood Block Party, Lyon between Grove and Hayes

July: 4th of July Block Party, Golden Gate between Baker and Lyon

September: Block Party/Fundraiser, Lyon between Grove and Hayes

October: Neighborhood Family Halloween Party

December: Holiday Party

Thanks to the dozens of fun loving, hardworking neighbors who lend their time, talent, and resources to make these events so successful. Please help us coordinate future festivities!

NOPNA is also planning two membership drives this coming year, one in February and one in June. If you are not already a member, we need you! Please sign up by filling out the form on page 3, and sending in your check.



Top: Jim and Suzanne Cowan share news and brews; R: Charles Higgins celebrates with son Trevor; Below: Freinds chat around cheery fireplace



Holiday Party at the Poleng

Thanks to the future managers of the Poleng Lounge (currently the 1715 Social Club, located on Fulton near Masonic) for hosting the NOPNA Holiday Party on December 5. The food was fabulous, service friendly, and environment cheerful and welcoming.

At the end of January, the Social Club will be no more, and the locale will start its transition into the Poleng Lounge. In April it will officially reopen as a Zen-inspired tea lounge and cafe during the day and a pan-Asian restaurant and performance space by night.

In its new incarnation, the club will be inspired by Bali and the cultures of Southeast Asia.

Dramatic architectural renovations will enhance the exotic atmosphere, bringing a lighter, more open feeling to the indoor space.

The dishes prepared for the NOPNA holiday party offered a sneak preview of the new menu items that will be offered, at extremely affordable prices (most items are under \$8).

Raising funds for hurricane relief

On October 22, NOPNA joined with San Francisco District 5 and Parkside Market to sponsor a block party in the 400 block of Lyon Street, for the benefit of Hurricane Katrina victims.

Parkside served up a great barbecue, and there was music by bands Earl E. Wood, Bazooca Brown, Red Meat, Blind Lemon, Singularity, and Manicato.

Many neighbors donated generously to the hurricane relief effort. Volunteers raised more than \$200, with proceeds going to the Red Cross.



Tys Sniffen, Keely Zahn, and Melissa Sniffen proudly display the results of the fundraiser

The NOPNA blog

Want to share thoughts, comments, criticisms or kudos with other community residents? Have a burning idea about a local issue or problem, and want to get it off your chest? Anxious to find out what others think about it? Need to get current information about a neighborhood event or project? Our new NOPNA blog is the way to go.

It can be found on the Web at www.northpanhandle.blogspot.com, or by visiting www.nopna.org and clicking on the link on the left side of the page.

Many of us are familiar with blogs, but for those who aren't, it's a simple concept: 'blog' is a shortened version of the term 'web log', which is basically an Internet-based diary, open to comment and response by people who visit that site.

Blogs have become so popular that a number of different services now allow easy access to them, so that visitors can add information, or 'post' to the online diary, at any time.

The idea of starting a NOPNA blog originated with our board. Its members can post information, and all are invited to respond. (The board retains the right to edit inappropriate comments and ensure that the posted remarks and

messages are not offensive to anyone.)

Easy to access and follow, the blog acts as an up-to-the-minute source of neighborhood information. It also constitutes a historic record of debate about current issues and happenings.

Thanks to board member Kevin Rafter for generating this useful, flexible new communication tool. Check it out!

Mister San Francisco

This site is a delight! It tells you everything—well, nearly everything—about past and current life in Quake City.

On the Internet at www.mistersf.com, the site is a colorful compendium of information. You can learn about films that are set in San Francisco, famous local poets and writers, volunteer opportunities for public-minded residents, architectural gems, historic landmarks, the origin of city street names... The list goes on and on. The well-organized information is provided in a lively, conversational style, and visitors are invited to submit their own discoveries.

Warning: Don't visit Mr. San Francisco when you're short of time: This site is addictive, and you'll have trouble tearing yourself away!

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CRIME SCENE

Homeless sex offender arrested Wednesday, December 28, 2005, 4:49 PM, 400 block of Central

Park Officers observed a known sex offender whom they suspected had failed to register since his release from State Prison. A check with the Department's Sex Offender's Unit revealed that their suspicions were correct. The sex offender advised our officers that he was homeless, which makes his reporting requirements even more stringent. The man was taken to jail.

Theft from person Thursday, December 22, 2005; 1:52 PM, 1600 block of Hayes

A woman was using her laptop computer in a public coffee shop when a man walked in and grabbed the computer. The suspect then ran to a waiting car, described as a 1998 4-door gold Infiniti with moderate rear end damage and a number 1 sticker in the rear window.

Robbery with force, arrests made Sunday, December 18, 2005; 3:25 PM, Golden Gate and Masonic

Two thieves grabbed the victim's shoulder bag containing his laptop. They knocked him down and dragged him 10-15 feet as he struggled to retain his computer, then kicked him in the face to make him let go of the bag. Witnesses called 911. Officers caught up with the suspects as they were fleeing. Numerous witnesses and the victim positively identified the criminals, who are now in custody.

Vehicular burglary, arrest Friday, December 12, 2005; 9:30 AM, Divisadero & Oak

The Kelly-Moore Paint Store has been the scene of several recent thefts. The suspect was believed to be one of the day workers who frequent the area. On this date, a contractor inadvertently left his van keys in the door lock as he was inside Kelly-Moore. Seeing an opportunity, the suspect opened the van and removed many items, making several return trips. The contractor returned, caught the suspect in the act, and called the police. When they arrived, the suspect admitted to that theft, as well as others from the same store.

Street robbery, force used Sunday, December 11, 2005; 12:33 PM, Masonic and McAllister

The victim's laptop computer was stolen by a man who ran away and jumped into the passenger seat of a car described as a 1989 4-door gray Honda sedan with California license plate #2NJV371. The robbery suspects are still at large.

Parole violation/Resisting a police officer Tuesday, November 29, 2005; 1:25 PM, Hayes and Divisadero

People called dispatch complaining of drug dealing in a silver-colored car. Upon investigation, it was found that both subjects were on parole for serious crimes. One suspect was ordered to return to prison.

Recovered stolen auto, arrest made Friday, December 2, 2005; 10:07 AM, McAllister and Divisadero

An officer of the day watch saw a car fail to stop for a pedestrian in the crosswalk, so he pulled it over. He found that the car had been previously stolen. He took the driver into custody.

(Continued on next page)

NOPNA salutes its dedicated Business Members

The following local business owners and institutions are dedicated to making the North Panhandle a better place for all of us. We applaud their efforts and encourage you to use their businesses and services.

1751 Social Club: 1751 Fulton, 215-4689

Alamo Square Seafood Grill: 803 Fillmore, 440-2828

Alex Chuzhoy, Fidelity Capital Funding: 863-2200

Andrew de Vries, Prudential Real Estate: 664-9400 x.277

Arthur Tom, The Art of Real Estate: 229-1279

Becky & John Layton, Pacific Union Real Estate: 885-5325

Blue Jay Cafe: 919 Divisadero, 447-6066

Café Organica: Grove & Central

Café Neon: 1801 McAllister, 567-8478

David Habash, Parkside Market: 1600 Hayes, 885-3483

Debra & Michael Varner: 421 Central, 922-0137

Emanuel Church of God in Christ: 1649 Hayes, 647-5448

Evolve Pilates Studio: 543 Lyon, 346-3992

Fairway Cleaners: 1798 McAllister, 931-1941

Giday Beshue, Club Waziema: 543 Divisadero, 346-6641

Goodlife Kitchens: 1604 Hayes, 771-8590

Hillvista Apartments: 1888 Golden Gate, 258-9722

Ison Design: 1683 Hayes, 931-8666

Matt Lanning, Pacific Union Real Estate: 752-5322

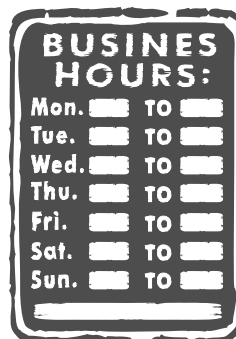
Mollie Poe, Zephyr Real Estate: 902-2447

Pacific Primary School: 1500 Grove, 346-0906

San Francisco Day School: 350 Masonic, 931-2422

Starbucks: 1799 Fulton, 474-8930

Trevor Logan: 517 Lyon, 409-2162



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2005 North Panhandle Real Estate Recap

Presented by Andrew de Vries, MBA (University of San Francisco Alumnus)

Your Neighbor & North Panhandle Real Estate Specialist



Prudential

California Realty

Dear Neighbors and Friends:

Following is a 2005 real estate market recap for the North Panhandle with regard to condominiums, single family homes and 2-4 unit buildings according to the *San Francisco Multiple Listing Service*.

<u>Condos</u>	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Avg. Price</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Avg. Price Chg.</u>
2005	125	\$670,000	\$270,000	\$1,089,000	+5%
2004	100	\$641,000	\$247,000	\$1,200,000	
<u>2-4 Units</u>	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Avg. Price</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Avg. Price Chg.</u>
2005	22	\$1,410,000	\$880,000	\$1,886,000	+13%
2004	25	\$1,248,000	\$753,000	\$1,802,000	
<u>SFHs</u>	<u>Sales</u>	<u>Avg. Price</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Avg. Price Chg.</u>
2005	7	\$1,066,000	\$766,000	\$1,412,000	-8%
2004	5	\$1,153,000	\$715,000	\$1,500,000	



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2005 continued to be a strong year overall for sales in the area. Buyers hoping to get into homes before interest rates change and sellers trying for timely market exits may have prompted higher sales volume and price gains. For info on how to buy at the best price or sell for the most money please call me at **415-664-9175 x.277**.

Crime Scene (from page 6)

Robbery on street with gun used **Friday, December 2, 2005; 7:54 PM, 1300 block of McAllister**

The Victim was walking home when a robber appeared and demanded, "Give me your I-pod!" while he brandished what appeared to be a small semi-automatic handgun. Victim was not hurt and the robber escaped on foot before police arrived.

Grand theft auto/Possession of stolen property and rock cocaine **Sunday, November 6, 2005; 7:50 AM, 600 block of Broderick**

An officer noticed a vehicle traveling a high rate of speed with squealing tires. The driver was taken into custody and a warrant check determined that he had an outstanding felony warrant for burglary. He was also found to be in possession of several stolen credit cards and rock cocaine.

Hot prowl burglary/Possession of a dirk

Sunday, November 6, 2005; 5:05 AM, 1800 block of Golden Gate

Officers responded to a call from a female resident indicating that she had just heard her front door close and believed that someone had just left her apartment. Arriving within 2 minutes the

officers located the suspect still in the apartment hallway. He was taken into custody.

Assault with deadly weapon **Tuesday, November 1, 2005; 2:05 AM, Hayes and Divisadero**

A suspected gang member who was on foot fired fifteen shots from a dark semi-automatic handgun at another gang member from Grove Street who was driving past. One gang member was shot and sent to San Francisco General Hospital. When Officers asked what happened, the gang member refused to answer any questions.

What YOU can do to make your neighborhood safer:

Get to know your neighbors. Start on your block. Say "hi" when you pass people on the street. Introduce yourself. This fosters a sense of warmth and friendliness in our community! Report ANY suspicious activity to SFPD.

- 911—Emergency: Crimes in progress
- 553-8090 911: Cell phones, San Francisco only

- 553-0123—Non-emergency: Need officers dispatched
- 575-4444—Anonymous tip line (answered 24/7 by a live person)

Keep your streets clean and graffiti out of the neighborhood. Call 28-CLEAN repeatedly when you see illegal dumping of materials or graffiti. The message? You care enough to keep the streets clean, you care enough to keep them safe.

Be outside and see what is going on. Walk with your dogs, your children, your friends! Spend more time outside on your stoop, talk to your neighbors, and walk your streets.



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