

North Panhandle



North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

www.nopna.org

March-April 2009

The budget crunch: Coping locally

By
Leela Gill

The budget crisis now facing San Francisco is unprecedented in modern history. It is estimated that the city's General Fund, which supports many city services, will be cut in half.

While residents of our community may not feel the effects immediately, they will soon recognize the impact on local businesses, jobs, and public services.

However, there are strategies for softening the impacts of the economic downturn. Neighbors sharing skills, volunteer efforts, resources and information can help each other get through this difficult time.



Photo: Matt Goleta

Not just statistics, but impacts on services

San Francisco's current total operating budget is \$6.5 billion. Of that amount,

approximately 18 percent, or \$1.2 billion, is considered "discretionary." Programs and services funded by this discretionary budget, called the General Fund, are not mandated and are most at risk of being cut.

Since, by law, San Francisco must have a balanced budget, almost 50 percent of the city's General Fund (\$576 million) is likely to be cut next year.

This seems bad—and it is. Mayor Gavin Newsom has stated that the city may be confronting "the most daunting crisis ... since the Great Depression."

Such statistics may seem abstract and impersonal, until we see how they reflect on our immediate community. A stroll down Divisadero quickly reveals budget cuts made to the Department of Public Works (DPW). Gone are the orange-clad teams once busy cleaning the pavements (*We hope everyone remembered to thank them!*).

The San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD), somehow always first to get the budget axe, is likely to close stations.

(Continued on page 3)

NOPNA Community Forum

On Saturday, April 11, NOPNA will hold a community forum to explore where our organization has come from, where we are now, and where we want to be.

"NOPNA: Past, Present and Future" will be the first in a series of public meetings addressing neighborhood topics.

In addition to being a launching point for future forums, the event will also be recorded as part of an oral history of the neighborhood to be archived in the San Francisco Public Library's local history collection.

We are seeking past NOPNA board members

to participate in the panel. Long-time neighbors, current board members, local elected officials, and representatives of community organizations are also invited to take part.

If you can serve as a moderator or panel member, please contact Jarie Bolander at jarie@nopna.org.

Mark your Calendars!

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2009
Time: 3:00 – 5:30 pm
Location: On the Corner, Oak & Divisadero

NOPNA General Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Café Neon, 1801 McAllister (at Baker)

7 pm: Informal get-together

7:30–9 pm: Meeting



From the Board

Building our business community

by
Jarie Bolander

It's simple but true: We feel a great sense of community when the people who live and work near each other get to know one another. One thing I most enjoy about NoPa is that neighbors often say hello when you pass them on the street. This experience, common in our urban environment, creates a collective bond, which accounts for much of the difference between living here and living in an impersonal suburb.

While merchants are sometimes overlooked as unimportant to this sense of community, they in fact play an essential role. Merchants create the places we eat and drink, the shops where we find daily necessities and services, and the venues where we are entertained. In addition, there are few people as friendly, helpful, and community oriented as our local merchants.

In NoPa, there are many examples of local businesses that build our community while serving their clientele. They enthusiastically sponsor and publicize our Divisadero Art Walks. On the Corner, the cafe at Oak & Divisadero, offers a weekly game night for grownups and kids alike. Many of the vendors who sell their wonderful wares at the Sunday Farmers' Market have become part of our social sphere. And, of course, Café Neon generously hosts our bimonthly NOPNA meetings. Other examples abound!

One part of sustaining a great neighborhood is maintaining this kind of thriving local business community. I would argue that small business is the economic engine that drives our quality of life, as well as our employment. Over 95 percent of San Francisco jobs stem from small businesses, which are run by independent merchants, as opposed to major chain stores, and usually employ San Francisco residents. This is why NOPNA urges everyone to support them and promotes a year-round "Shop Local" campaign.

Meet the Merchants

As part of our promotion of local businesses, NOPNA invites neighborhood merchants to attend the NOPNA General Meeting every March. It's a chance for them to present their products and services while making personal friends with neighbors. Everyone is encouraged to attend this "Meet the Merchants" event on Thursday, March 19, from 7 to 9 pm, at Café Neon (McAllister and Baker). Please plan to be there!

.....

Jarie Bolander is a volunteer counselor for SCORE, a national nonprofit association that educates entrepreneurs to form and grow successful small businesses. SCORE volunteers are working or retired executives and business owners who donate time and expertise as business counselors. Focusing on small, neighborhood businesses, Jarie works through SCORE in NoPa to assist the new Lower Divisadero Merchants Association.

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.

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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: board@nopna.org
www.nopna.org

GET the NEWS?—PAY your DUES!

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

Please join us! You can sign up online at www.nopna.org, or complete the form on page 11 and mail it in with your check. For more information, call 415-267-6113.

3 WAYS to GET INVOLVED

Help spruce up Divisadero

Volunteers are invited to help clean up the strip on Saturday, March 7, from 10 am to 2 pm. We'll gather at **On the Corner**, at Divisadero & Oak. Many hands make light work: why not lend yours? There will be coffee stations for the volunteers, so please bring your favorite cup.

For a more green and pleasant NoPa

In the next few months, the city will install bicycle racks at locations frequented by cyclists. To get bike parking at your favorite stop in NoPa or anywhere in the city, call (415) 585-BIKE or email bicycle@sfmta.com. Provide the address, cross streets, and name of business.

Community Challenge Grant Program

This program provides matching grants to local residents, businesses, and community groups to make small-scale physical improvements to their neighborhoods. Awards range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 depending upon the size of the project. Deadline for applications is March 25. NOPNA can help with crafting a grant application and/or sponsoring the project. Contact Kevin Rafter for assistance: board@nopna.org. For more details about the program, or to download an application form, go to <http://www.sfccgp.org/>.

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Budget Crisis (continued from p. 1)

Neighborhood Emergency Response Training (NERT) classes, sponsored by the SFFD, may be reduced significantly.

Health and human service budget reductions will also be stressful, with less money available for city agencies like Health (estimated cut: \$29 million); Children, Youth and Their Families (estimated cut: \$10 million); and Parks and Recreation.

These cuts directly affect many NoPa residents who rely on day care, youth employment, social welfare, and elderly care services. Additionally, neighbors who visit Panhandle Park will see reductions in maintenance of this popular green area.

Our only bright spot: Police overtime will probably be reduced citywide, but this reduction should not affect NoPa. Captain Barrett, of the Park Station, which serves the North Panhandle area, said that the station is unlikely to suffer a major reduction in police services, as it does not incur much overtime spending.

Time to Step Up

While we lack the power to control markets or change the economy, we can act to soften the impact on our community. By sharing information and volunteering in small ways, we can improve the situation, both for ourselves and for the community as a whole. Some suggestions follow.

1) Dine and Shop Locally

Our local merchants are feeling the pain because people are spending less. So, instead of going to a different neighborhood for your dining pleasure, stay local and walk to one of our great area restaurants. Invite your friends to visit here, and share with them some of the many dining and shopping options in the North of Panhandle.

A stroll up Divisadero, from Page Street to McAllister, reveals a wealth of bargain stores you may not have discovered. From fruits and vegetables to clothing, gourmet cheeses to home decor and hardware, you can get what you need and save a bundle. And don't forget the Sunday Farmers' Market!

2) Be a NoPa "Neighbor to Neighbor" Volunteer

Through a new NOPNA program called Neighbor to Neighbor, you can join a network of people prepared to help each other when needed. Block coordinators volunteer to develop a network on their own street and bring neighbors together to exchange ideas and initiate projects. This connection promotes a cleaner, safer and friendlier community. Some blocks have organized events like garage sales, barbecues, and tree planting projects. Others have tackled tougher safety issues.

Neighbor to Neighbor groups also work on an individual level. When times get tough, a simple neighborly visit, a gift of cookies, or a bottle of wine can go a

long way toward making life a bit better. NOPNA board member Leela Gill leads the Neighbor to Neighbor program. To get involved, contact leela@nopna.org.

3) Lend a Hand to Helping Organizations

Many nearby community-based organizations can use our help, especially as funding sources diminish. Back on Track, Booker T. Washington Community

(Continued on page 7)



Due to budget cuts, the San Francisco Department of Public Works has eliminated its regular street cleanups on Divisadero, but they will still send a team to remove graffiti from public property. Report graffiti by calling 3-1-1.

St. Cyprian's: A NoPa neighbor for nearly 50 years

By
Beth Lane

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, at Turk & Lyon, has graced the community since 1960. Its plain, freshly painted white façade gives scarce hint of the beauty—both physical and spiritual—within.

The church features a lofty chapel with stained glass windows, a simple but elegant altar, and light oak pews. To nourish its parishioners' bodies as well as their souls, St. Cyprian's also has a full kitchen in the basement, with space for hosting events.

The history of St. Cyprians constitutes a fascinating social history of various religious communities and their complex migrations throughout the American continent.

In the early 1870's, a group of Black Episcopalians gathered to form a new church in San Francisco, which became known as Christ Mission. Its services were conducted in Youngmen's Hall on Pacific Street. At the same time, with the completion of the Panama Canal, laborers from that project began migrating to California. Many of them were people of West Indian origin who were raised in the Church of England, from which sprung its American counterpart, the Episcopal Church.



The beautiful and historic church traces its origins to a congregation of African American Episcopalians who came to California from the West Indies.

African Americans affiliated with the Episcopal faith had also migrated to San Francisco from elsewhere in the country and joined the other groups to form their own Episcopal church: St. Cyprian's. It was named after Thaschus Cæcilius Cyprianus, a North African bishop and third century martyr.

The first formal service at St. Cyprian's was held in Grace Chapel on April 8, 1923. The congregation was obliged to move several times. Finally, in 1960, a new church was constructed in its present location at 2097 Turk Street.

In recent years, following a common pattern, community gentrification and an aging population of parishioners has caused St. Cyprian's congregation to dwindle from its peak in the late 1970s. The church now has about 70 worshippers, although the number attending weekly services is usually smaller. St. Cyprian's collaborates with other Episcopalian churches in the area to explore ways to best support their congregations.

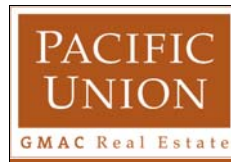
The church is open to social and civic, as well as religious, functions. Reverend Don Fisher, who has been at St. Cyprian's since 2001, says, "We invite the community to rent the spaces for weddings, memorial services, meetings and other events." St. Cyprian's also rents its main area to a Korean Presbyterian Church for Sunday afternoon services.

People who regularly attend St. Cyprian's quickly become "part of the family," as Chris and Yaro Ralph discovered when they were looking for a church to attend in San Francisco three years ago. "We instantly knew this was the right one, and they welcomed us so warmly," states Chris.

In a service for the first Sunday of the Advent on November 30, the Ralphs were pleasantly surprised to receive a blessing from the members of the church for their soon-to-be-born son. Although he was not due until January, Reverend Fisher stated, "We're all praying he'll arrive on Christmas!"

(Continued on next page)

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Helping neighbors settle their differences

By
Jim Garrison

Community Boards is a public conflict resolution resource for individuals, groups, and community associations. Our mission is to help resolve those conflicts that diminish a neighborhood's shared quality of life: negligent neighbors, loud pets, irresponsible roommates, blocked driveways, noisy businesses, unpruned vegetation, poor property maintenance, or unresponsive absentee landlords.

With more than 30 years' experience, Community Boards' Neighborhood Mediation Program is designed to help people cope with such problems. The strategy that underlies our work, and is responsible for much of its success, is to openly address a conflict in its earliest stages rather than having it fester into a feud or escalate into verbal harassment or physical assault. However, even if a conflict has been long-term or ongoing, we can help untangle the issues and get to the heart of the problem.

Mediations are conducted by a panel of trained volunteers, which can include English, Spanish, or Cantonese speakers, depending upon the population served. With their assistance, the disputants safely and respectfully discuss the problem and work together to create an appropriate shared solution.

Few problems are either too big or too small for Community Boards' attention. We can help two people settle a personal issue or work with large groups to address a public dispute. Most Community Boards' services are free of charge, although we do welcome donations.

Any San Francisco resident, small business owner, or advocacy group is welcome to seek our assistance. No matter how many times we may mediate the same type of dispute, Community Boards always gives the same personalized attention and respect to each party involved. For us, every conflict is as unique as the individuals involved in it.

We are always eager to recruit new volunteer mediators who reflect the diversity of the city. Please call 415-920-3820 if you are interested in joining us and would like to sign up for our next 40-hour training, the Basics of Mediation.

And, of course, if you need help solving a dispute or mediating a conflict, contact us before you call the police or talk to a lawyer! Call 415-920-3820, or visit our website: www.communityboards.org. We may be able to help you personally. Ultimately, we provide opportunities for residents to become better neighbors.

Jim Garrison is the Communications Coordinator for Community Boards.

Newsletter direct—Now you can access NOPNA News directly online, at www.nopnanews.org. Many thanks to web wizards RJ Ciccaglione and Chris Callahan, of the communications consulting and design firm Refreshment Center, for helping this happen!



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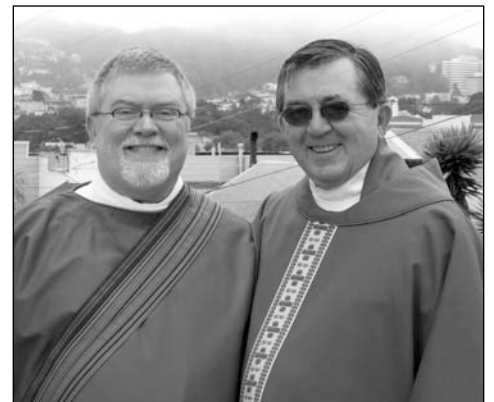
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St. Cyprian's (from page 4)

Like all Episcopal churches, St. Cyprian's conducts Holy Eucharist services every Sunday, but is particularly active during Christmas and Easter. Following Easter services on Sunday, April 12, St. Cyprian's will hold a celebration and lunch buffet.

The church deacon, Mark Henderson, and organist Katherine Bernitt assist Reverend Don Fisher.

For more information on St. Cyprian's, call 567-1855 or visit www.saintcyprianssf.org.



Deacon Mark Henderson (L) and Reverend Don Fisher preside over St. Cyprian's services and social functions.

Beth Lane works in communications. A NoPa neighbor and NOPNA board member, she is a frequent contributor to NOPNA News.



Whenever possible, B's hires local residents. The staff includes, L to R: Gerald Green, Al Bourges, Paula Moranda, Charles Adams and Luis Jimenez.

Spotlight on Local Business

The secret's in the smoke

B's BBQ features much more than brisket

If you didn't know there was a restaurant at 855 Divisadero, the spicy-sweet aroma of wood-smoked brisket would draw you in like iron filings to a magnet.

Many customers of B's BBQ & Grill discover the place when they just happen to be walking by and suddenly, for no apparent reason, become very hungry!

Inside, the restaurant is spare, simple, and clean-as-a-whistle. It has overhead neon lights, tiled floors, square tables in the small dining area, and beige walls punctuated by colorful prints.

competitions to see which one could prepare the best barbecue. Mine usually won out!"

Over time, the two men collected their respective families' recipes, building on them, exploring different ingredients, and finally arriving at the best selection and balance of ingredients for each dish.

Besides the standard barbecue fare—brisket, ribs, chicken, sausage links, and side dishes—B's also serves special sandwiches, like their already renowned chili-marinated tri-tip. Non-meat specialties

include a succulent Portobello mushroom sandwich and grilled salmon, the restaurant's popular Friday night special, prepared with a rum-laced marinade.

In addition, the restaurant offers a variety of side dishes, all made on the premises and using garden-fresh

ingredients. They serve Chicago baked beans, Texas slaw, greens, and potato salad, all vegetarian-friendly, as well as spaghetti and crunchy corn muffins. Salads are mixed to order, with a choice of 17 fresh vegetables. There is even a popular vegan stir-fry.

But B's specialty, of course, is meat: the focal point of all self-respecting barbecue. As Bourges explains, rather than using traditional brick barbecue "pits," which consume a great deal of energy and yield inconsistent results, B's employs computerized, hi-tech smokers that require only 10 to 14 ounces of wood. They keep the heat at a steady, controlled level throughout the cooking process until the meat is done and held at its ideal temperature.

The owner-manager team has done no advertising, but word of mouth seems to be doing just as well for the locale. Ever since it opened, business has been "off the charts," declares Bourges. The restaurant is getting more than 200 orders a day, with about 65 percent for takeout.



Visitors from Florida pronounce themselves "completely satisfied" with the food at B's

Customers are gravitating there from different neighborhoods, in the Western Addition and beyond. But the management and staff are delighted to be located right here. Long before they opened, Burrell and Bourges attended several NOPNA general meetings to share their plan with the local residents, and received a warm and immediate welcome.

"This neighborhood has supported us fully," says Bourges, "and we are very grateful!"

B's BBQ & Grill: 855 Divisadero, at McAllister / 415-525-3419
Hours: Mon–Thurs 11 am–9 pm;
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What's on the menu?

Our menus change weekly, but here's what we've been cooking recently:

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Brazilian Seafood Stew
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(and more!)

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(at Hayes and Central) OR enjoy delivery right to your door.

Budget Crisis (from p. 3)

Center, Larkin Street Youth Services, Mercy Terrace, and the Hamilton Family Center are some local organizations that provide vital support to children and families in our area. San Francisco School Volunteers, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the California Pacific Medical Center also offer volunteer opportunities. You can find contact information for these organizations at www.nopna.org. A wide range of choices is also available at www.volunteermatch.org.

Volunteering is a great way to keep spirits high, extend personal and professional networks, strengthen your resume, and make new friends!

4. Keep Sidewalks Clean

Picking up trash in front of your doorways or along your street not only makes the neighborhood look better, but it sends a message that we care about our area. With a decrease in public services, especially along main thoroughfares, we all need to be ready to fill in the gap. Research shows that crime and vandalism decline as street cleanliness increases. At your request, NOPNA can provide a free trash grabber tool, which makes it easy to pick up street trash without bending down or touching it. Get yours today by contacting leela@nopna.org.

5. Help Maintain Panhandle Park

Two neighborhood groups, NOPNA and PROSF (Panhandle Residents' Organization Stanyan-Fulton) organize park cleanups on the second Saturday of each month. Volunteers meet at 9 am at the bulletin board near the Panhandle Park playground and spend a few hours brightening and tidying the park. These clean-ups become more important as budget cuts limit maintenance by city workers. Report vandalism and trash in Panhandle Park through the ParkScan website (www.parkscan.org/send-observation) or by calling 3-1-1.

6. Phone 3-1-1 to Report Problems

Now more than ever, we need to self-police our community. Although short-staffed, the city will respond to reports of public graffiti and trash dumping. Graffiti can function as a marker of gang activity, so it should be removed immediately. Research shows that graffiti removed within 24 hours is less likely to recur. So if you see "tagging" on a wall, report it at once by calling 3-1-1. If graffiti is on public property, the DPW will try to remove it within 48 hours; if on private property, the agency will send notices to the building owners giving them 30 days to respond or face fines.

* * * * *

The budget cuts will impact our community, but, by working together, we can offset their worst effects. Stay informed! To sign up for NOPNA's electronic news bulletin, visit www.nopna.org and register your email address.

In March, the City Controller will submit a revised budget to the Mayor's office. On June 1, Mayor Newsom will release a proposed FY 2010 budget to the Board of Supervisors, and by July 31, the Supervisors must approve it. To advocate for programs or services that matter most to you, speak up now by contacting the Mayor's office (gavin.newsom@sfgov.org) and District Five Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi (ross.mirkarimi@sfgov.org).

However the budget is allocated, it will have \$576 million less for programs and services than last year. As neighbors, we should strap in and get ready for a bumpy ride!

Leela Gill is a 20-year NoPa resident and a NOPNA board member. She serves on the Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Department of Children, Youth and Families and on the Steering Committee of the San Francisco Neighborhood Empowerment Network. Leela works full-time as Principal at Alta Mira Advisors, a strategic advisory firm for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Fighting for universal health care

Even before the current economic downturn, health care was a major cause of personal and business bankruptcy. Costs continue to rise, while nearly 50 million Americans are uninsured—and those who do have insurance are paying more while getting less.

Health care reform advocates are working nationwide to eliminate private insurance companies and their lobbyists from health care, creating a "single payer" program that would cover everybody while saving billions of dollars for government, businesses, and individuals.

NoPa neighbors are planning a house party for all who want to join the effort. Notices will be posted at www.nopna.org and sent to everyone signed up on the email list.

To learn more and get involved now, call 415-563-5089 or visit <http://singlepayernow.net/>.

A glimpse of the PAST

Neighborhood historian and writer Michael Helquist sent us the following article. It was originally published, in somewhat longer form, in the November/December 1990 issue of the North Panhandle News.

NORTH PANHANDLE NEIGHBORS: where we've come from, who we are, where we're going

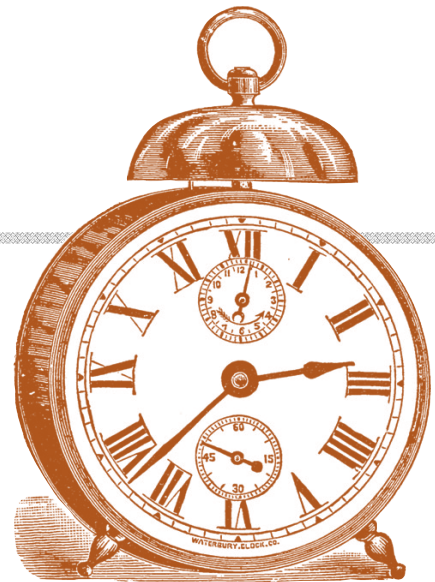
Four years ago a group of neighbors in the Grove-Central area wanted to do something about drug dealing on the street corner and the problems that went along with it: noise, litter, street-fighting and general tension.

By forming an association, working with the police, sending letters to City Hall, and pressuring the owner of the building that was being used as a center for drug trafficking, the neighbors got results. The police raided the drug house, the building owner evicted the tenants responsible for the trouble, and a plainclothes officer volunteered to serve as resi-

dent manager in the building. Within several months the drug dealing stopped, and the corner became quiet again. Having succeeded in bringing the major problem under control, the neighbors discontinued their meetings.

That was four years ago.

Unemployment, homelessness, and other social problems did not go away. By the end of 1989 residents at Grove and Central noticed a new increase in street crime, vandalism, noise and disruption. Drug dealing had returned to various corners of



the neighborhood. It was time to get active again.

This time, the meetings were announced over the entire area from Fell to Golden Gate and from Masonic to Divisadero. 75-100 people came to the first meeting in May. The

Continued on next page



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A Glimpse of the Past (from p. 8)

meetings that followed have been equally well attended, with many new faces each month. Altogether, over 250 people have come to general meetings. Among the most active participants have been members of the Golden Gate Avenue Community Association, a group that has been organized since 1983.

The organization now has a name—North of Panhandle Neighbors Association (NOPNA)—and a loose structure: working committees organized to suggest strategies and take action on the major problems in our neighborhood. People active in the association include students, workers, professionals, housewives, businessmen and women, long-time property owners, and newly arrived tenants. Every age, race, and ethnic group is represented. Local small businesses have offered their help and support. San Francisco SAFE has donated information and resources, and the Park Police Station has sent officers to talk with us at each meeting.

The association is now drawing up a set of bylaws and will soon elect officers. *(Editor's note: seven active committees were listed and their duties described. The committees were research and information, communications, crime/drug action, special events, beautification/cleanup, steering, and agenda).*



The North Panhandle Neighbors Association has been meeting for about six months. The real work, however, is just beginning. ...We urge everybody to get involved by coming to a general meeting, calling for information, or writing to NOPNA.

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Arendt House on the way

On February 17, the ground breaking ceremony for the Zygmunt Arendt House took place at 850 Broderick Street, the site of a 47-unit building that will house formerly homeless seniors. Phase one of construction was celebrated by neighbors, public agencies, and the project sponsors, Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Council and the Community Housing Partnership.

The new facility is named after Zygmunt Arendt, a philanthropist who bequeathed \$6 million to the City and County of San Francisco. Arendt requested that 60 percent of his estate benefit the poor, with 40 percent going to needy seniors.

AROUND & ABOUT

• **Holà artsy people:** Dig out your best hip outfits in preparation for the next installment of our **Divisadero Art Walk** on **Saturday, March 7**. The successful series features local artistic color and discount coupons for restaurants, drinking establishments, and shops all along Divisadero from Haight to Geary. The art walk is a labor of love by 20+ Divisadero businesses, with merchants offering specials and staying open late for passersby. Check out www.divisaderoartwalk.blogspot.com for further details.

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*Data from BrokerMetrics covers District 6F sales from 07/01/07-06/30/08.

• **The "Student of the Game,"** a classic boxing training center with a modern twist, will soon open at 350 Divisadero & Oak. Exercise gym manager Joe Hunt promises classic American boxing classes in a 21st-century dojo setting. The goal is to provide youth activities while generating spirit and community through respectful competitive sports. Divisadero also wins, through the façade restoration and upgrade of this 1908 building, located next to the **Black Nose Trading Company**.

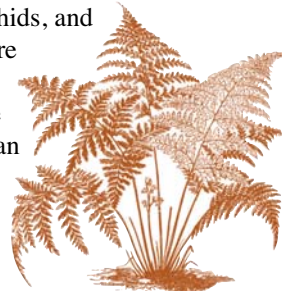
• **The scene to be seen:** Like a nomadic bazaar that lands in different San Francisco neighborhoods every other month, the **Indie-Mart** (www.indie-mart.com) is a marketplace that has evolved from an underground shopping party to a must-attend event. On **Sunday, March 8**, from 11 am to 5 pm, the Indie-Mart Western Addition will inhabit the **Independent** club at 628 Divisadero. Against a background of pulsating local DJ beats, the 21-and-over event will offer stiff drinks, cold beer, barbecue treats, one-of-a-kind fashions, reconstructed vintage items, off-beat crafts, handmade jewelry... and, if you're hip, YOU!

Indie-Mart is also a fundraiser for San Francisco Women Against Rape, an agency that offers medical care, support, and counseling to women victimized by violence. Suggested donation: \$2 bucks. And don't forget that Monday night is Movie Night at the Independent. For a mere two-drink minimum, you can enjoy a good film while meeting friends and neighbors.

• **Sweet Street:** Despite the budget cuts, Divisadero Corridor Project Manager Ellyn Parker reports that the street's long-awaited greening and beautification is still on track to start in the coming weeks. Crews will be moving block by block, first repairing sewers, next paving streets, and finally installing bus stop bulbouts and planting trees.

• **Night and day:** Things keep buzzing at **On the Corner** (Oak & Divisadero), the perfect spot to caffeinate morning brains, grab delicious sandwiches and salads, and surf the Internet. Every Wednesday is game night, from 7 to 10 pm. A partnership with **Gamescape** (at Divisadero & Page), game nights offer a chance to try your luck at new games or old standards. For a change of pace, Tuesday nights welcome laid-back knitters for "Slippin." Live music is a regular attraction on various nights, too. For updates, visit www.sfcornet.com.

• **Art & Nature:** Spring will bring fresh life to **Plant'It Earth's** new **Lake Gallery**, upstairs at NoPa's urban plant paradise at Divisadero and Grove. The Lake Gallery showcases art and hosts classes. Plant'It Earth (plantitearth.com) is an 8000-square-foot showroom stocked with San Francisco's best selection of indoor gardening products, orchids, and houseplants. While you're there, admire **Jet Martinez's** fabulous new mural (*Thanks, Jet!*), which flourishes on the Grove Street side of the building. It's an ideal backdrop to the Sunday Farmers Market at Divis & Grove—which, thanks to everyone's support, is now a year-round neighborhood attraction.



Continued on next page

Test your neighborhood savvy!

How well do you know our neighborhood history and related trivia? Test yourself with this quiz.

1. Which one of these streets did not have a cable car line in early San Francisco?
(a) McAllister ... (b) Hayes... (c) Fell
2. Which one of the following buildings is NOT among NOPNA's three registered San Francisco landmarks?
(a) Mercy Terrace ... (b) Westmont College, at Lyon & Fell)... (c) Native Daughters of the Golden West, at 555 Baker ... (d) Madrone Lounge, at Divisadero and Fell
3. Who was the renowned architect of the building at 555 Baker Street (Native Daughters of the Golden West)? (Clue: she also designed the Hearst Castle.)
4. Which north/south street in the NoPa area is named for a U.S. Senator from Oregon?
(a) Broderick ... (b) Baker ... (c) Lyon... (d) Masonic
5. Which North Panhandle area street was possibly named after the inventor of the steamboat?
6. Golden Gate Avenue was originally named after the 10th president of the United States. Who was this president?
7. What was the NoPa stretch of Central Avenue originally named?
(a) Middle Street ... (b) Lott Street... (c) Presidio Avenue ... (d) Panhandle Street
8. On what local street was heiress Patty Hearst kept in hiding during her kidnapping?
(a) Golden Gate... (b) Lyon ... (c) Fell ... (d) Hayes
9. On which street did actor Danny Glover live as a young boy?
(a) Lyon ... (b) Grove... (c) Central ... (d) Fulton
10. Who was the only U.S. President to visit the NoPa area? (Not really a clue—but you know it wasn't W.)

ANSWERS:

1. (c) Fell ... 2. (c) Native Daughters, 555 Baker ... 3. Julia Morgan ... 4. (b) Baker... 5. Fulton ... 6. President John Tyler ... 7. (b) Lott Street... 8. (a) Golden Gate ... 9. (c) Central... 10. President Theodore Roosevelt visited San Francisco in May 1903 to break ground for a monument honoring his slain predecessor, President William McKinley. It's at the Baker Street entry of Panhandle Park.

Michael Helquist, our community's resident historian, drafted the original version of this neighborhood quiz for a September 2000 NOPNA meeting. Long-time NOPNA member Jim Cowan tallied the most correct answers—and won a \$75 cash prize!

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Annual dues: \$25 Individual / \$30 Family / \$50 Mover
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Around & About (from page 10)

- **Hot new restaurant opening:** Guests who gathered on February 2 to celebrate the imminent debut of **Nopalito**, the Mexican eatery in the Falletti complex at Oak and Broderick, were surprised by unexpected visitors: The San Francisco Fire Department, sirens blaring and emergency lights flashing, drew up at curbside to investigate a reported conflagration in one of the adjoining condos. Turned out the smoke was emanating from an overextended stove, but the stalwart fire fighters didn't leave until they had done a thorough investigation. One party-goer, watching the excitement while sampling one of Nopalito's delectable quesadillas, observed, "the food here is really well seasoned, just spicy enough. But it's not THAT hot!"



Chefs at Nopalito prepare some of the delicacies that are already attracting a loyal clientele to this combination eat-in and takeout spot. Its name is a culinary pun: Nopal is a large cactus paddle, and Nopalito, or "little Nopa," is owned and operated by the same folks who run Nopa, at Divis & Hayes.



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As a 13 year resident of North Panhandle, a Mom with kids in two local schools and a strong supporter and advocate of everything NOPA, including the neighborhood association as a business member and sponsor, I regularly represent buyers and sellers within our wonderful neighborhood. Please visit my website for further information on past sales, property presentations or call me direct with any Real Estate inquiries.

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- Listing and Marketing Specialist
- Representing both Buyers & Sellers
- NOPNA Business Member



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