NOPNANews

nopna.org

A Publication of the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

Fall 2020



Brings Neighbors Safely Together in World Record Attempt

On July 18th, a creative and dedicated group of neighbors and volunteers brought Hopscotch Your Block to NOPA. Inspired by the chalk drawings and hopscotch courses we'd seen scattered throughout the city since March, we wondered if it was possible to connect our entire neighborhood with a single hopscotch course.

When we learned that the world record hopscotch was (only) four miles, the idea for Hopscotch Your Block was born. We mapped a 4.1 mile route that wiggled through NOPA with the goal of bringing neighbors together (while keeping everyone safely apart) to try and break a world record. Whether or not we'd beat the record, we thought the attempt would be a fun way to build community through a common goal and share a bit of joy during these challenging times.

A second goal was to support our neighborhood businesses, so we set up a voucher program and had nine wonderful NOPA merchants participate. Each Hopscotch Your Block participant received a \$7 voucher (on behalf of NOPNA) to redeem at one of the following neighborhood businesses: Barrel Head, Black Nose, Central Coffee, Home Service Market, Jannah, Matching Half, McBaker Market, Oasis Cafe, and NOPA Corner Market. (For one family, it was the first time their kids got to buy candy - by themselves - from a store; a huge milestone!)

Throughout the day, hundreds of neighbors built various sections of the course, with more than enough space to social distance. Some parts of the course had unique flare: highlights include the lily pads and koi pond on McAllister Street, fun instructions mid-course to "say

FROM THE BOARD

COMPASSION **BETTERMENT** & UNITY



Julian Mackie: NOPNA President

Neighbors -

Since our last newsletter was published, our community has been seemingly turned upside down. Walking down Divisadero, witnessing our local merchants' boarded-up windows, or observing the masked, socially distanced groups, one inevitably feels disoriented. Our routines are also in a state of tumult some neighbors have taken on new roles as teachers or camp counselors, some have lost jobs, homes, or their broader sense of security. Yet, for all the changes to our known "normal," we've witnessed countless examples of compassion, betterment, and unity that demonstrate the enduring characteristics of our community.

We've witnessed compassion through urgent and powerful outpouring of support for one another - both door-to-door and in empathizing with the hardships of our broader community. We've seen neighbors create delivery services, launch PPE collections, and advocate for our community's most vulnerable.

By taking to the streets, advocating to our elected officials, and in asserting that black lives matter, our community has demanded accountability and betterment. NOPNA continues to reflect on the ways in which our own organization has fallen short in the past and how, moving forward, we can act everyday to eliminate violence and racism.

We've demonstrated unity through collective advocacy - for new bike lanes, better policing, and shelter for those who lack it. In acknowledging our current adversities and advocating for a better tomorrow, we realize that the only way to go is together.

COVID-19 may be a global pandemic, but its effects are overwhelmingly local. It is the local rate of infection, the local essential workers serving our community, and our neighbors' diligence that matter the most to what happens next. NOPNA's aim will always be to amplify these characteristics in whatever way we can, whether in highlighting the stories of our incredible small business owners, providing a platform to question our elected officials, or in organizing safe, family-friendly events like Hopscotch Your Block. If you're interested in joining us, or volunteering for future events, you can sign-up at Nopna.org, or email us at board@nopna.org.

We hope to see you all in person soon.



North of **Panhandle** Neiahborhood Association

The NOPNA News is published by the North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association for the residents, businesses, and friends of our neighborhood, which is bounded by Masonic Avenue and Turk, Divisadero and Fell Streets.

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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.

Your financial support allows NOPNA to cover the costs of our newsletters, community building events like our block party and holiday party, public art projects in the neighborhood, and other activities that enrich our dynamic neighborhood. It also supports this site.

Make a difference on our streets and become a member today!

> Contact NOPNA board@nopna.org www.nopna.org

NOPNA NEWS IN **COVID-TIMES**

We know it's been a long time since you last saw the NOPNA News. During that period, we wrestled with the decision to resume publishing, not wanting to put any of our dedicated neighborhood volunteers in danger. After consulting with the Board and some of our key delivery people, we were reassured that we could distribute the News in a safe way and so have decided to resume publication. We are fortunate that our printer is able to accommodate this job, and our advertisers continue to help support us.

THE STEPS WE ARE TAKING:

- We conduct all interviews and take photographs following social distancing and PPE guidelines
- We provide PPE (specifically, masks and gloves) for all delivery volunteers to further minimize risk of transition.
- We request all volunteers to deliver to the doorstep or doormat only

We all have a role in keeping our neighbors safe and the NOPNA News team takes that responsibility seriously. We also have a role in cultivating the sense of connectivity and community, particularly in these trying times.

If you have any additional suggestions for additional actions we may take, please feel free to email me at jason@nopna.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOPNA (Virtual) General Meeting [NOPNA.org]

Third Thursday of Odd Months (see NOPNA Website for Zoom details)

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Farmers Market

DMV Parking Lot - Broderick@Fell Sundays - 10am-2pm

Stay tuned for updates on other events in 2020 - follow us on facebook, twitter, or sign up for our mailing list at www.nopna.org.



HOPSCOTCH YOUR BLOCK (continued from page 1)









Mitch celebrates bringing the Hopscotch World record to NOPA (awaiting official confirmation). And neighbors collaborate to draw the course.

something that makes you happy" and "stop and wiggle" on Grove Street, and the hopscotch maze on Fell Street. We had four safe chalk distribution areas around the neighborhood where we handed out 300 bags of chalk (fun fact: we ordered 1,800 pieces of sidewalk chalk almost all of which was used!).

Neighbors finished approximately 85 percent of the course on Saturday, so a team of dedicated volunteers set out to connect the intersections and finish the un-chalked blocks on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. We knew there was a chance we'd get far enough to nearly complete it on Saturday, but to qualify for the record, someone needed to hop the full course.

NOPA neighbor Mitch Miller, avid roller skater and biker, volunteered — and on Sunday, he spent over four hours hopping the entire route. Neighbors came out to cheer him on along the way, some folks held signs, and at one

point several kids were following him on their bikes. We filmed him hopping the course and have submitted the video to Guinness as evidence that we are the new world record holders. It may take months to be reviewed (believe it or not - there's a lot of people across the world applying for records!), but we know we built the continuous course and built community along the way. Until we hear back from Guinness, we can say with certainty and pride that NOPA holds the Unofficial World Record for the Longest Continuous Hopscotch Course.

Thank you to everyone who participated to make this such a special day — it was incredible to see the neighborhood work together to create this fun community project.

Meg Rahner has lived in NOPA for 10 years and currently serves on the NOPNA board. She formerly attempted to break the world record for the longest hopscotch course when she was 10 years old in her hometown of Erie, PA. She and her sister only made it six blocks.

WHAT IS **VISION ZERO?**

Many of us have enjoyed the reduction in automobile traffic in our neighborhood lately. As the city reopens, however, that sense of calm on the neighborhood streets might fade. Did you know that, every year, about 30 people are killed while traveling on San Francisco's streets? 200 more are seriously injured. These deaths and injuries are preventable.

The good news is that a collaborative effort continues to make progress toward its goal of zero traffic deaths on San Francisco streets by 2024. Ambitious? Yes. But, as the Vision Zero SF Action Strategy states, "traffic fatalities are preventable" and "traffic safety interventions mitigate the likelihood that a collision will result in death." Many prongs of this action strategy, and many individuals and agencies alike, must work in harmony to get to that ambitious goal. You, too, can play a role.

ELEMENTS OF THE CURRENT ACTION STRATEGY INCLUDE:

- Adding Automated Speed Enforcement cameras: after implementing these, traffic fatalities reduced by 73% and traffic related injuries reduced by 34% in Washington, DC.
- Pricing and Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled: London experienced a 40% drop in collisions after instituting a congestion charge.
- Reducing Speed Limits: Boston saw a 29% decrease in speeding episodes when reducing its citywide speed limit from 30 to 25 mph.
- Regulating TNCs like Uber and Lyft: requiring legislation at the state level, local authority to regulate these networks would improve traffic flow and increase safety.

For more information about Vision Zero, visit https://www. sfmta.com/getting-around/walk/vision-zero-sf, or better yet, get involved in this citywide effort to "build safety and livability into our streets" and protect all of us. Reach out to the NOPNA Vision Zero Committee chairs (robin@nopna.org, tim@nopna.org) to learn more about what we are doing and join our effort.

Katherine Riley has lived within two blocks of Divisadero (in 4 different homes) for 18 years. She can usually be found around the neighborhood wrangling (or riding her electric cargo bike with) her two children.



VOLUNTEER FOR NOPNA NEWS

NOPNA News is a volunteer-driven publication created by and for our neighbors. If you'd like to get involved we'd love for you to be a part of it whether by contributing your skills, your voice, or your time.

There are several areas where we are always looking for more support.

LAYOUT AND DESIGN - if you have InDesign skills (or would like to learn), we can always use help pulling together each issue. Our designers are responsible for the clean, professional, and stylish look and feel of each issue.

COPY EDITING - if you are good with words, have an eye for detail, and like early sneak peaks we'd love your help with the process of getting the articles from submission to print.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR - if you are interested in helping to identify and select articles, recruit and engage with writers and photographers, and learn more about the process of publication, I am looking for someone who's interested in helping edit the paper.

WRITING, PHOTOGRAPHY, OR DELIVERY we can always use more folks interested in writing articles, taking pictures, or delivering the news. Time commitment is minimal and very flexible, and you will see the impact of your work in real life.

If any of these are interesting to you, or if you have other ideas for how you would like to be involved, I'd love to hear from you at jason@nopna.org.

LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

HAILE AND ABEBA OF OASIS CAFÉ



When you think of tasty food that's a little bit exotic, with unusual flavors and has a bite to it, there's no better place to head to than Oasis Café at the corner of Divisadero and

McAllister. Haile Tadesse and his wife Abeba Gedam have welcomed customers to their Ethiopian/Eritrean café since 2010. A member of the Tigrinya people who hail from a territory located along the Ethiopian/Eritrean border, Haile opened a small store in the Oasis current location in 2007. After three years he and his wife decided to convert the store into a café where they could "introduce their culture and food" to the community. Haile and his family are locals themselves living just a few blocks away while their oldest son is up the street at USF.

For ten years Oasis has served as a gathering spot for neighbors as well as for the Ethiopian/Eritrean community given Haile and Abeba's emphasis on excellent coffee and healthy food which represents the authentic flavors of their homeland. The Ethiopians say that arabica (coffee bean) originated

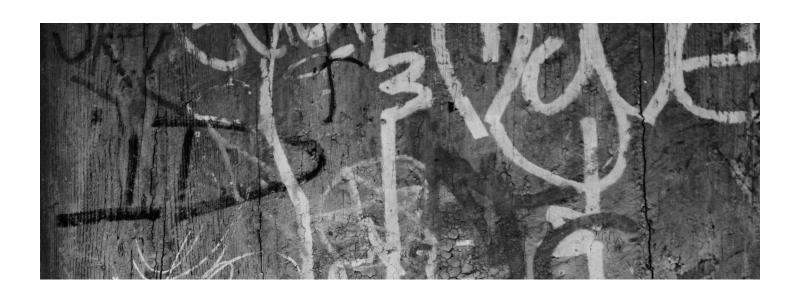
At Oasis you can get a mix of breakfast, lunch, and dinner options, both American and Ethiopian/Eritrean style.

in the highlands of Ethiopia which today remains one of the world's top producers of quality coffee. At Oasis you can get a mix of breakfast, lunch, and dinner options, both American and Ethiopian/ Eritrean style. Meat and many vegetarian dishes and platters are available with the Veggie Combo, an all vegan dish, being the most popular. Also popular are the meat sambusas with hot sauce and chicken tibs served with injera, the spicy bread with which one eats the spicy dishes.

Normally Oasis employs 8 people, representing a mix of cultures. Ranferi is from Guatemala and is usually behind the counter to take your order while Musa is in the kitchen preparing the dishes. Marcellino can be seen both in the kitchen and up at the counter. With business down between 50-70% on any given day, Haile has had to lay off some staff though three remain. Oasis has installed a protective shield at the counter and gloves and masks are worn by the Oasis staff but has not yet shifted to delivery service owing to the associated costs. Instead, Haile would like people to order online through OasisCafeSF.com or stop by the café which remains open every day opening at 7am. Haile and Abeba are very grateful for the continuing support they continue to receive from

loyal customers and hope more people in the community will stop by to try their delicious food. I am a regular customer with an almost daily sambusa order ready for me to go with my Haile's Choice coffee.





Help the city find and fix graffiti and litter BE A NEIGHBORHOOD "SEMI-HERO"



One indirect impact of the pandemic has been an increase

in litter, graffiti, and discarded furniture that in small ways, erode the quality of life in our neighborhood. Helping the city's Department of Public Works find and address these nuisances is easier than you may think.

What if you could fix neighborhood annoyances just by taking pictures of them?

While that superpower may remain elusive, the city has provided the next best thing through the 311 app. Using it may not make you a superhero, but maybe a more modest "semi-hero." If you haven't

discovered it yet, simply download the SF311 app to your smartphone and you can easily log everything from graffiti, to potholes, to the illegally discarded furniture that sometimes litters the sidewalk.

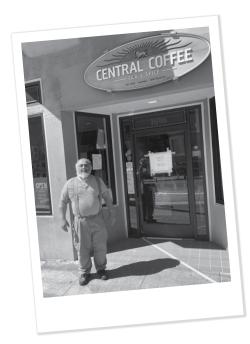
The app makes it easy to take a picture of the issue and tag the location. You'll be notified when the problem is addressed. It's surprisingly effective. I've personally seen things that I've reported on my way out of the house in the morning be picked up before I return home that day.

Of course, you can also call 3-1-1 to report issues or log issues on its website (https://www.sf311. org/), but nothing approaches the convenience of the app if you want to feel a bit like a superhero (or at least a semi-hero) on your next stroll.



LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

CENTRAL COFFEE TEA & SPICE



For twenty-five years, Central Coffee Tea and Spice has been a welcoming space for the eclectic residents of NOPA. In that time, Central Coffee, as it's known to locals, has become a fixture of the neighborhood and has cultivated a consistent sense of place and reliable community, even as the area around it has evolved and changed.

Ali Gharavi originally discovered the then empty space in 1993 after peeking through a hole in the wall

of the next-door laundromat. Two years later, he was able to open the cafe we know today. Throughout its entire tenure, Ali has worked seven days per week welcoming residents, typically employing a small staff of neighbors.

Though it has not been easy, Ali, himself a NOPA resident, has kept the shop open during the COVID-19 pandemic. The skeleton crew has risen to the challenge of social distancing: employing gloves, sanitizer, physical barriers, and more-

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frequent hand-washing - following the strict protocols set by the SFDPH in order to ensure both they and their patrons stay safe. In doing so, Ali has incurred the additional cost of

these measures even as revenue has diminished.
Additionally, Ali continues to serve the community he loves by delivering food and coffee to long-time customers who are elderly or otherwise need to stay strictly inside. "They didn't quit on me back then [when he was getting the cafe

started]" and now he is determined to not quit on them either.

If you would like to support Central Coffee Tea and Spice, in addition to



stopping by for a take-out coffee or snack, you can:

Buy a gift certificate (or a few) that can be redeemed at a later date.

Call to order whole beans (Ali will send to your address). (415) 922-2008

Central Coffee is located at the corner of Grove and Central and is serving to go items 7am-2pm Mon-Fri and 7:30-2pm on Saturday and Sunday

Jason Cauthen started treating his kids to Central Coffee's "Kids Steamers" (steamed milk) at a very early age.



Jennifer Rosdail

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CHARLES DUPIGNY'S PRESIDENTIAL FAREWELL



How does a neighborhood evolve?

One may think what forms in a neighborhood, just happens, after it had occurred; Or one may think a city department, or an elected official initiated a beneficial change in the neighborhood, or, sometimes those changes may go unnoticed or unheard.

After six years as an active North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association(NOPNA) Board member, three years as a NOPNA Board President, and what feels like millions of meetings and emails, I can tell you that a lot of work goes behind almost everything you see, or feel, in what may be seen as a vibrant, safe, and eclectic neighborhood which NYMagazine dubbed San Francisco's epicenter of cool. (Check out: A Day Out in Divisadero, San Francisco's Epicenter of Cool).

Now, not all of these changes in the neighborhood have been welcomed, some changes have been more controversial. Particularly, newer development, demographic or diversity changes, affordability, traffic safety, and the

list can go on. It was anticipating some of these changes, that prompted my involvement in joining the NOPNA board six years ago.

As President, my focus with NOPNA has been on addressing some of these changes. For newer development, we wrote

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letters to increase the affordability for incoming development on Divisadero. In addition, creating Land Use & Vision Zero Subcommittees, to bring together the voices of the community, which includes non-board members, to come together and shape their neighborhood. For sustainability, we support and highlight long time businesses, including working with city officials to assist them in the midst of all the changes or it's impact. In addition, advising merchants, to hire locally, to reflect the diversity of our city, an ongoing effort. For safety, we meet monthly with SFPD, on crime prevention, traffic, or awareness. For neighborhood unity, awareness, and feedback, we have our ongoing events, meetings, newsletters, surveys, and meetups. Now, these efforts are just a fraction of trying to sustain, and address neighborhood issues. However, one thing is constant, no matter the issue or controversy, action is required.

As I retire from the board, I want to thank all the neighbors for their support, whether it's in, or outside a board, your work will never go unseen. I want to thank the NOPNA Board, Divisadero Merchants Association, Alamo Square Neighborhood Association, and city officials for their tireless contribution. As for now, my watch is over...Farewell!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Charles Dupigny's final term as president ended at the end of 2019 and this note was intended to be published soon after. Delays getting the NOPNA News (and COVID) meant it is only being shared now.

Email us to get involved: board@nopna.org



North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association















Carmen Chan









Christopher Russell

MEET THE BOARD

PRESIDENT. Julian Mackie, started volunteering with NOPNA because he wanted to give back and become more deeply invested in the community. Julian's interest lies in using data to improve our community, particularly housing and pedestrian safety. In his free time you.can catch him exploring San Francisco or enjoying our beautiful parks.

VICE PRESIDENT. Meg Rahner has lived in San Francisco for a decade, and has been a resident of NOPA since day one. She joined the board in 2017 to become more actively involved in the community. Meg was excited to spearhead Hopscotch Your Block for NOPA this summer, while leveraging her professional experience in public relations to bring visibility to the event beyond the neighborhood.

TREASURER. Mike Leeder, has lived in the neighborhood since 2004 and has two young boys. In addition, Mike is a Co-Founder of Bytes for Bits, an after school organization teaching grade school kids to code software.

CO-RECORDING SECRETARY. Jason Cauthen, is a San Francisco native who loves Bay to Breakers. He moved to this neighborhood in 2011 with his wife and is now raising two more SF natives. When not working, editing the NOPNA News or spending time with his family - Jason enjoys brief excursions on his bike. Reach out to him at jason@nopna.org.

CO-RECORDING SECRETARY. Leela Gill, a 20+ year resident, enjoys the neighborhood with her two boys and husband. She is active in NOPNA community safety and event planning.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY. Robin Kutner, has lived in San Francisco since 2012 and joined NOPNA to learn more about community involvement and improvement. She is passionate about sustainable transportation, Vision Zero advocacy, and land use policy. When not volunteering in various ways, you can find her riding down the Wiggle or running in the Panhandle.

Jeremy Besmer has lived in the neighborhood since moving to San Francisco in 2015. He is passionate about transportation and urbanism, and he joined the board to get more involved in advocating for street improvements to make the neighborhood safer and more enjoyable to get around.

Carmen Chan is a San Francisco native who has lived in NOPA for the past 9+ years. She hopes to bring her professional experience in client management and operations as well as her passion for local businesses to build a stronger relationship between NOPNA and the local business-owners we all rely on.

Jeff Dewey and his wife, Megan, have lived in the neighborhood since 2010. Their nine-year-old daughter is proud to be a NOPA native. Jeff has been updating the NOPNA website and welcomes any feedback at webstuff@ nopna.org.

Tim Hickey and his wife, Leah, have lived in the neighborhood since 2010 and can be seen with their son, Liam, biking and walking through the area.

Dera-Jill Pozner and her husband have lived around the Panhandle since 1999, including 11 years in the North Panhandle, where she also operates her architecture and design firm.

Christopher Russell is a marketing manager with experience in industries ranging from clinical research, real estate, and wearable technology. A lover of minimalist, abstract art, he believes in asking great questions.





Declan Hickey

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Mollie Poe

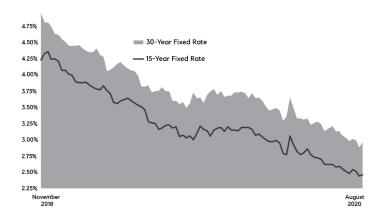
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SF Median House Sales Prices | By bedroom count Monthly median sales prices since 2005 - 12 month rolling figures

Mortgage Interest Rate Trends

November 2018 - August 2020 | 30 year and 15 year conforming fixed rate loans, weekly average readings



Per Freddy Mac, on August 13th 2020, the average interest rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage was 2.96% and for a 15-year term it was 2.46%, both close to all-time lows. In November 2018, the 30-year rate hit 4.94%, and in 2017, it was 6.3%.



Each price on this chart reflects 12 months of sales, which smooths trend lines and deletes the effect of seasonality on home prices,

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751 Baker Street



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