

North Panhandle



North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association

www.nopna.org

January - February 2010

District 5 Wins Big at NEN Awards

NOPNA wins Best Neighborhood Website

By Pamela Schwartz

Community leaders gathered at City Hall on November 18 to recognize the positive impact that neighborhood organizations have had with the second annual Neighborhood Empowerment Network (NEN) awards. The NEN awards highlight local achievements and celebrate community empowerment, with a diverse showing of milestones across the city.

District 5 has a lot to be proud of, as the recipient of three awards: “Best Neighborhood Organization Website” going to nopna.org, “Best Community Benefit/Merchant Association” going to the Divisadero Merchant Association (shared with the Bayview Merchant Association), and “Best Community Challenge Grant Project” going to the Lower



From L-R: Jarie Bolander NOPNA President and webmaster, Rich Hohl, On the Corner, Sommer Peterson, MiniBar, Supervisor Mirkarimi, Lloyd Haddad, Capricorn Framing and Ellyn Parker (NoPa neighbor & Divisadero Corridor Manager).

NOPNA General Meeting THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

POLENG LOUNGE, 1751 Fulton (at Masonic)

7 pm: Meet & Greet • 7:30 – 9 pm: Meeting

We meet in the back lounge.

Food and beverages available for purchase.

Haight Neighborhood Association (shared with Lower 24th St Merchant’s Association). These awards reflect progress and involvement in our dynamic community.

Nopna.org was designed in the Wiki style and is the first of its kind created to encourage community participation and information sharing. Unlike administered websites, the Wiki motif belongs to all of us, allowing users to amend content. It is also an efficient model to capture the rapid changes underway in NoPa. Incoming NOPNA President Jarie Bolander accepted the award on behalf of the NOPNA board and spoke about the website’s vision to promote involvement and to be a source of current, comprehensive and reliable information.

The Divisadero Merchant’s Association (DMA) shared the spotlight, recognized for organizing and giving a unified voice to independent merchants in the Divisadero Corridor. It is easy to see the impact they’ve had as current projects like the Divisadero Streetscape Improvements and Divisadero Lights beautify and transform this thoroughfare into a welcoming neighborhood space. Sommer Peterson, MiniBar proprietor, accepted the award on behalf of the DMA.

The DMA is also the mastermind behind the first of its kind Art Walk, which other San Francisco neighborhoods have since copied. The first Art Walk took place in October 2008 and momentum since has been going strong.

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NoPa's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT)

By Fiona Raymond-Cox

NoPa neighbors are taking a proactive approach to disaster preparedness with over 11 NoPa participants in the November Neighborhood Emergency Response training (NERT), organized through the San Francisco Fire Department. The free training is a two-day intensive, which teaches the basics of personal preparedness and prevention. The course includes hands-on disaster response skills designed to help individuals respond to a personal emergency as well as to act as members of a neighborhood response team in the event of a large-scale disaster.

NoPa boasts two residents who have taken a leadership role in coordinating NERT and are setting examples for how a community can face and overcome disaster by working together neighbor-to-neighbor.

NoPa resident Fiona Raymond-Cox has coordinated the NoPa NERT program for the past three years, working on the formation of the NoPa-USF-Lone Mountain NERT coalition. Bel Sales recently stepped forward to help Fiona coordinate NoPa NERT activities and became a NERT member in 2007. She has lived in NoPa for 12 years.

2010 should be an exciting year for NoPa NERT members as Fiona and Bel will be holding a series of one-hour NERT member meetings on the last Wednesday of every other month starting in January. This will give all who join an opportunity to get to know one another better, and to build team skills.

NERT is open to anyone and was initiated to ensure that communities increase their level of self-sufficiency in the



Bel Sales and Fiona Raymond-Cox.

event that first responders are unable to provide immediate assistance.

The goal of NERT is "to teach as many San Franciscan's as possible that, with basic training, they can make a difference in the lives of their families and others when, not if, they are affected by a disaster large or small."

The NoPa NERT team is keen to see more neighbors become NERT members. To find out more about the program and classes go to: www.sfgov.org/site/sfnert or email Bel and Fiona at nopa.nert@gmail.com.



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