

Firefighters Make Ultimate Sacrifice

Tragedy struck the San Francisco Fire Department with the on-duty deaths of two veteran firefighters assigned to Station 26, which serves Glen Park and Diamond Heights.

by **Elizabeth Weise and Rachel Gordon**

Lt. Vincent Perez, 48, and Anthony "Tony" Valerio, 53, succumbed to injuries they sustained battling a house fire at 133 Berkeley Way on the morning of June 2.

Valerio, a firefighter and paramedic, served 13 years with the Department of Public Health and 14 years with the Fire Department. Perez was a 21-year veteran of the Fire Department.

The two victims suffered severe burns and were rushed to San Francisco General Hospital. Perez died there the day of the fire, Valerio two days later. A third firefighter sustained minor injuries and was treated and released.

A funeral for the two fallen heroes was held June 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral. The service, televised live, drew thousands, including firefighters from across California and states afar, the city's elected family and state and federal representatives, friends, relatives and strangers. A procession of more than 150 fire engines escorted the bodies through the city streets



Firefighter memorials at SFFD Station 26 in Diamond Heights.

Photo by Chris Hardy

and down Interstate 280 to Colma, where the Perez and Valerio were laid to rest.

The two fatalities marked the first San Francisco firefighters to die in the line of duty since 2003, when a crew member fell off an engine en route to a call. The last firefighter to die in a fire

was in 1995, also while fighting a house fire in Diamond Heights.

"This has been an extremely difficult time for the members of the San Francisco Fire Department," said Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White. The deaths of the two men "have left all our members with heavy hearts; they will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with both the Valerio and Perez families as they grieve their losses."

In the days following the deadly two-alarm blaze in the four-story hillside house, neighbors visited Station 26 bearing food, cards, flowers and hugs.

Located at 80 Digby St., Station 26 responds to calls in Diamond Heights and Glen Park. It is well-known to families visiting nearby Walter Haas Playground who get to use the fire house bathroom and, when lucky, ring the bell on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Glen Park Farmers' Market Gets "Thumbs Up-Plus!"

Despite Old Man Winter delivering unseasonable chill and rain just hours before, the first-ever Glen Park Farmers' Market officially opened at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 15, in the Glen Park BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington streets. More than 1,500 market-goers quickly warmed up to the unique shopping experience that a local Farmers' Market brings, and

by **Ashley Hathaway**

as luck would have it, the sun came out and it fitfully felt like Springtime.

John Silveira of the Pacific Coast Farmer's Market Association began the opening ribbon-cutting ceremony with a brief introduction to an attentive crowd. Glen Park Merchants Association President Ric Lopez spoke next, thanking the community and others who supported the project, including Silveira and Glen Park

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Glen Park Association Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at 7 p.m.
Sunnyside Conservatory
236 Monterey Blvd.

Enjoy a pot-luck appetizer and dessert social
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Gas Transmission Pipeline Near Glen Park Deemed Safe in PG&E Field Inspections

Many Glen Park residents received a letter from the president of Pacific Gas & Electric this spring, informing them that their property is located within about 2,000 feet of a natural gas transmission pipeline. The letters are part of the company’s response to the San Bruno gas pipeline explosion of Sept. 9, 2010, which killed eight people and leveled 35 houses.

The gas transmission pipeline near Glen Park, designated Line 109, was constructed in 1932. It runs along High-

way 1 up from Daly City, then hangs a right at Alemany Boulevard, which it follows until one block north of Ocean Avenue, at San Juan Street, where it zigs west one block to Cayuga Avenue.

It then runs beneath Cayuga all the way to Rousseau Street, where it jogs south one block to Trumbull Street. It then follows Trumbull to Stoneybrook Street, where it jogs north, going under and then along Alemany Boulevard again until it jogs north to Folsom Street, which it follows to Bernal Heights.

For a zoomable interactive map, go to www.pge.com/pipelinelocations or call the PG&E pipeline hotline at 888-743-7431.

With the San Bruno disaster fresh in our minds, The *Glen Park News* asked PG&E spokesman Joe Molica about the safety of our nearby transmission line. He explained that the pipeline is “greatly reduced in size and pressure” when it reaches Daly City, after bringing gas up the Peninsula.

The nearly 80-year-old Line 109 was hydrostatically pressure-tested in 1995, at which time a lining was installed inside the pipe, Molica said. There are also manual shut-off valves to the north and south of our section, he added.

PG&E sends foot or aerial patrols along its gas lines on a quarterly basis, and Line 109 was last patrolled in May, 2011; no problems were found. A leak survey of this section was done on April 10, 2011.

In addition, the company does a test involving sending low levels of electric current along the outside of its pipelines to check for corrosion. The last one was done this April, Molica said. In addition, spot testing was done in 2009; that involved actually digging down to key spots on the line to check it with x-rays—which also showed no problems. ■



A map showing the PG&E natural gas transmission pipeline that runs past Glen Park. Map courtesy of PG&E

Glen Park News

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To advertise in the *Glen Park News* call 908-6728 or e-mail advertising@glenparkassociation.org.

The mission of the Glen Park Association is to promote the collective interests of all persons living in Glen Park, to inform and educate about neighborhood and citywide issues, to promote sociability and friendships and to support beneficial neighborhood projects.

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glen park association news

In December, I wrote in the *Glen Park News* about the upcoming Glen Canyon and Recreation Center planning efforts with the Recreation and Park Department. I said, "RPD staff has promised an active process to reach out to the neighborhood on how to invest the bond funds right."

by
**Michael
Rice**

Six months later, many of us have attended eight or nine workshops, filling the Rec Center meeting room along with staff, consultants, neighbors and activists, all using maps, slides, Post-Its and colored markers. There were hours of questions, suggestions, alternatives, revisions and, yes, some disagreements on how to upgrade the park facilities and the trails system. The Recreation and Park staff is now moving ahead with refined concepts and priorities for implementation.

I also wrote in December about my personal ideas on the needs and goals for the park plans. I attended most of the meetings, but ideas and concerns came from all over the room. How did those ideas turn out?

- "Renovate or add carefully to the Rec Center, for access, bathrooms and to have a first-class multi-purpose room, easily set up for meetings, classes and neighborhood events. Minimize any new building encroachment on park space."

The plans call for renovating the

Rec Center, adding new bathrooms and community space, and opening up the main room to the park as a full, modern multipurpose room.

- "Renovate the playground structures with up-to-date equipment and surfaces. How about a sweeping hillside slide, as at Seward Street in Eureka Valley or Esmeralda Steps in Bernal Heights?"

The playground will be 70 percent larger, with new equipment to be planned in detail. This is a big change, even without a sweeping hillside slide.

- "Do we need better turf and drainage for the ball fields? Fix the fencing along Elk Street, with more welcoming gates."

The plan will rebuild the playing fields with some careful expansion to the west by removing some shrubbery and grading. There is an intriguing option of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission funding the reconstruction through development of a subsurface retention basin for winter runoff.

Elk Street will be dramatically improved, with a widened sidewalk and tree planting. A gateway with car drop-off area will open to a wide path to the playground and renovated Rec Center.

- "Do the tennis courts need new surfaces? Put in energy-efficient lighting focused on the courts, not the neighbors."

The tennis courts will be rebuilt to the east, to expand the playground and the

new entrance path. We can look forward to new playing surfaces and lighting.

- "The hillside below Elk Street looks like a clear-cut that stopped. Haul away or chip up all the logs and stumps. Replant more native cypresses and pines. Are the eucalyptuses safe from storm damage? Build a usable trail or walkway on the west of Elk Street from the park entrance to Sussex Street."

The plans show needed improvements to the Sussex Street entrance, an Elk Street path, and a new picnic area on

the hillside. I hope this means an early cleanup of the stumps and logs.

The plans, we know, are much larger than the \$5.8 million available now. Funding the rest of the \$22 million estimated cost will require strong community support and political activism. Glen Park looks ready to take this on, to polish the jewel of Glen Park.

Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association.



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from the editors

Our hearts and thoughts are with the families, friends and colleagues of San Francisco firefighters Lt. Vincent Perez and Anthony "Tony" Valerio, who died as a result of injuries sustained while battling a house fire on Berkeley Way in Diamond Heights. Their deaths are tragic reminders of the people we often too easily take for granted—the heroes who staff our fire stations and drop everything when that loud buzzer sounds, alerting them to grab their gear, hop on their trucks and be ready to save a life or a burning building, often putting their own lives at risk.

Perez and Valerio were assigned to Station 26 on Digby Street. Just about anyone with young kids is familiar with Station 26. It's right up the block from Walter Haas Playground, and the crew that works there has welcomed families in search of a bathroom, often with little time to spare.

Perez, 48, and Valerio, 53—who was also a paramedic—both grew up in San

Francisco and gave their lives doing a job they loved. Perez died June 2, the day of the fire, Valerio two days later.

In the days after the fire, the station became a gathering place for mourning. Neighbors brought flowers, food, cards and words of sympathy to the grief-stricken crew. Firefighters from around the Bay Area came to pay their respects. San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White spent time at the station, as did the fallen firefighters' relatives.

Mayor Ed Lee, who lives in Glen Park, said what many of us are feeling: "These two men have dedicated their lives to protecting the people of San Francisco for decades. This is a terrible tragedy for our city and it is a reminder to us all of the sacrifice that firefighters make along with their family and friends. We are forever appreciative for the brave men and women of the San Francisco Fire Department who put their lives on the line every day for us."

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AT&T Pitches Neighborhood Association on Plan to Install Sidewalk Utility Boxes

More than 20 Glen Park residents attended the April 14 quarterly meeting of the Glen Park Association in the Glen Canyon Park Recreation Center auditorium.

After calling the meeting to order, GPA President Michael Rice laid the ground rules for the two-hour meeting, whose primary agenda item was the possible placement of 11 AT&T U-verse fiber-optic boxes at various Glen Park locations. Each AT&T surface-mounted cabinet is 48 inches tall, 51.7 inches wide and 28 inches deep. When they are situated within 300 feet of an existing AT&T box, the company said, the boxes will allow AT&T to compete with other communications companies, such as Comcast, in providing faster high-speed internet service, clearer telephone service and enhanced cable television service.

Marc Blakeman, an AT&T regional vice president, made an eight-minute presentation, and pointed out that the 11 new fiber-optic boxes in Glen Park would comprise only a small percentage of the 726 similar cabinets that eventually will be situated throughout San Francisco.

Blakeman listed 11 Glen Park locations that already have above-ground boxes near them, used for telephone service: 447 Arlington, 538 Congo, 2799 Diamond, 100 Fairmont, 1 Joost, 509 Laidley, 53 Lippard, 100 Miguel, 98 and 194 Randall, and 189 Whitney. A map showing those locations is at <http://gmaps.kaeding.name/saved/glenparku-verse>.

Since the neighborhood meeting, the fate of AT&T's utility box project in San Francisco faces uncertainty. Last month, when it looked like the Board

of Supervisors would vote to require a lengthy environmental review process—as requested by critics—the company made a last-minute plea to supervisors that they delay consideration for at least five weeks. AT&T wanted more time to scale back its proposal citywide. Unclear is how the anticipated revamp would alter plans for Glen Park.

Blakeman said that while the new fiber-optic boxes would ideally be placed adjacent to existing telephone boxes, it is an option to place them within 300 feet of the boxes. If neighbors vehemently oppose the fiber-optic boxes, the area can be exempted from the upgrade.

AT&T is obligated to contact property owners and determine if, for a fee, residents are willing to house the cabinets on their private property. Blakeman noted that cabinets could be placed in underground vaults, but that the cost for unlimited maintenance access to such vaults makes this option monetarily and practically unfeasible.

John Kwong, manager of the Department of Public Works Division of Street-Use Permits, detailed the lengthy City public review and appeals process that is scheduled for coming months. This process will identify and evaluate locations for cabinets—they cannot be placed next to bus stops or adjacent to historic buildings—and will solicit public comment, and will engage in a final Board of Appeals process if necessary.

Gary Weiss, president of Corbett Heights Neighbors, and Jonathan Goldberg, representing San Francisco Beautiful, both presented objections to AT&T's proposal on aesthetic grounds. Weiss noted that the boxes are targets for graffiti and vandalism and have the "hum of an electric tooth brush." Blake-

man countered by saying that AT&T will provide an 800 telephone number that can be used for immediate removal of graffiti.

Rice moderated a brief question-and-answer session, which elicited questions on topics including safety: Do the boxes emit dangerous radiation? Blakeman told the audience there is no danger from radiation. Other questions included telephone company rate increases, compensation to private prop-

erty owners, and AT&T's payment to the City and County of San Francisco for "doing business" within its borders.

To learn more about the process or ask additional questions, contact John Kwong at john.kwong@sfdpw.org or 554-5810. AT&T has FAQ at <http://ipnetwork4sf.att.com/our-plan>, including photographs of existing and proposed boxes, and a link in the right column where concerned residents can join a mailing list to keep informed about current news. ■



This space at 6 Monterey Blvd. will be the home of Cup, a new coffee shop owned by the same folks who own Toast.

Photo by Chris Hardy

The Coffee's at Cup on Monterey

The owner of the wildly popular breakfast restaurants Toast, with branches in Noe Valley and on Polk Street, plans to open a coffee bar at 6 Monterey Blvd. in June.

by Elizabeth Weise "It's the first building on Monterey, just after it turns at the end of Diamond Street," said proprietor Kamal Naser. "It's right next to Glen Park Chiropractic."

The coffee place will be called simply Cup. It will offer Blue Bottle Coffee and pastries, and will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Naser hopes.

He said the space offers "an opportunity to do something that's the opposite of what we do at Toast. Cup will be very simple, just coffee and pastries. We hope it will complement the other businesses in the neighborhood."

Naser added that he loves Glen Park, where he lived for five years before his growing family forced a move to more

affordable pastures: "I think it's the most convenient place to live in San Francisco." ■

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Update on Glen Canyon Park Improvement Plan

After nearly six months of meetings, presentations, breakout sessions and just plain wrangling, the Glen Park community has reached a consensus of sorts about how to help bring back some of the faded glory of Glen Canyon Park.

The 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond will provide \$5.8 million for park improvements.

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, partnering with the Trust for Public Land, led the community in the task of designing and prioritizing the much-needed projects.

The series of meetings also included two workshops on trails improvements in the natural areas, which are allocated \$900,000 from the 2008 bond. E-mails from residents were taken into account, in addition to suggestions from those who attended the workshops.

At the most recent workshop, John Gibbs, landscape architect with WRT—the firm contracted to come up with the design proposals—presented the preferred design

and the phase in plan. Originally there were three alternatives, each of which would have resulted in varying degrees of reconfiguration and relocation of the active recreation areas—the playing fields, tennis courts, playground, and the Recreation Center building itself.

The best use of the funds, and least disruptive to park users, it was felt, is to leave the building in the same place but to reorganize its layout significantly. Likewise, the playing fields would be improved but left in the same orientation.

If everything on the wish list were done, the cost estimate would run to \$22 million. Bringing that figure down by around three-fourths meant a lot of soul-searching about how to get the most benefit from the funds.

More than one person had the question: Why are we talking about things we don't have any money for?

For example, projects related to drainage issues on the playing fields could be funded by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Likewise, the SFPUC could be asked to fund stormwater elements north of the rec center, which would comprise constructed wetlands that act as a transition to the natural areas, plus an underground rainwater cistern to store water and decrease neighborhood flooding during major rain events. Exposing more of Islais Creek could be part of this scenario.

"What can someone else pay for?" was an ever-present consideration in how to stretch the limited bond allotment.

Basic upgrades to the Rec Center building topped the wish list. Miriam Moss, leader of the Glen Park Advisory

Board, made an impassioned and convincing plea for heating and accessible, pleasant bathroom facilities—and the sooner the better! There was no argument about that. To make the best use of the available space, the stage in the auditorium—a largely unused relic of a bygone era—could be brought down to floor level with access to the outdoors added.

Gibbs noted that with all the competing needs, whatever gets done is a tradeoff against something else.

Also in this first phase were changes to Elk Street access, especially drop-off points with short-term parking for three cars, and improvement of the Sussex Street stairway entrance; construction of an inviting main entryway and plaza, incorporating native plants and a curving walkway in a natural pattern leading to the rec center; and expansion of, and upgrades to, the playground.

The logistics of phasing in the changes are that the Rec Center would be tackled first, along with the projects around the building at the same time.

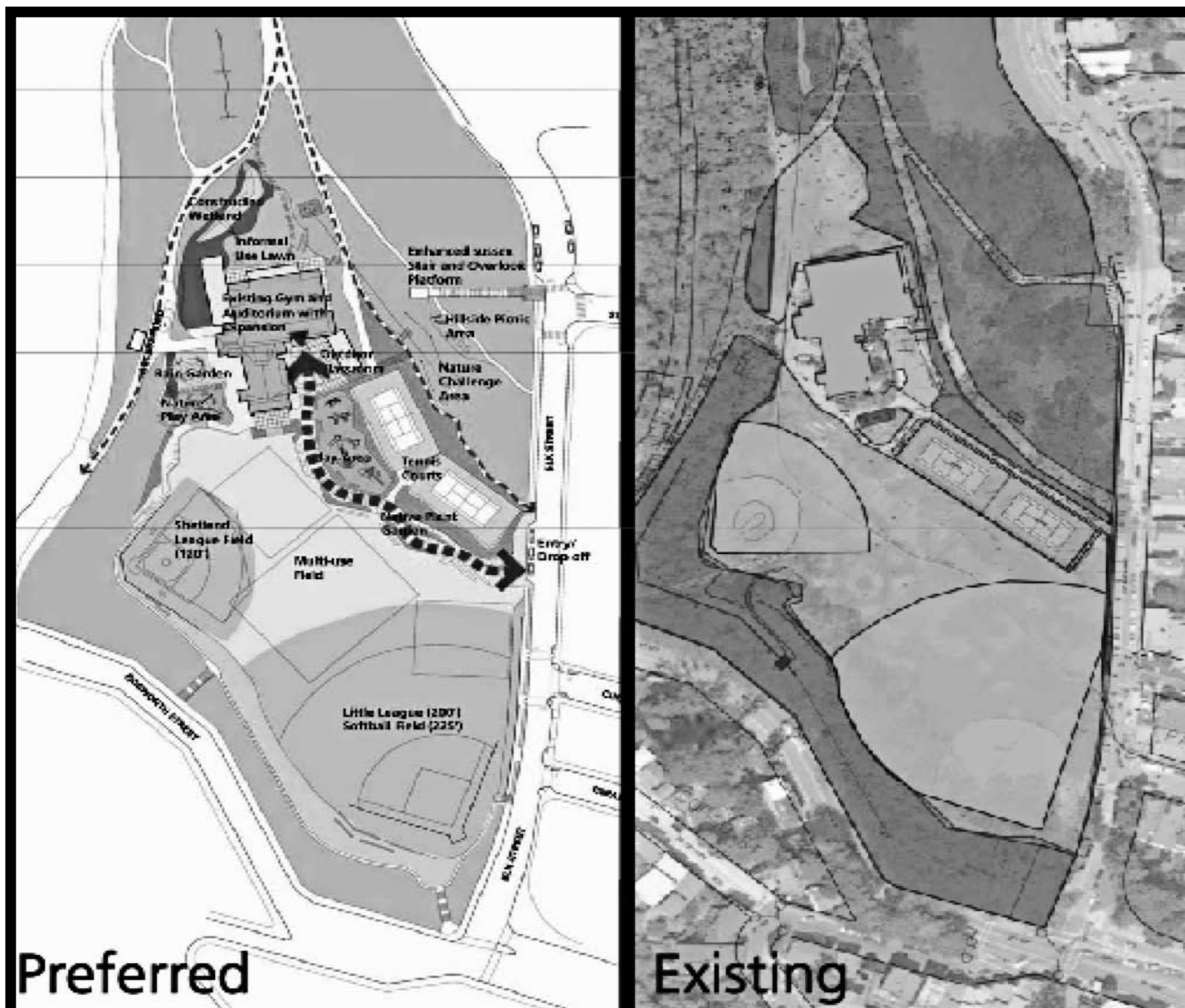
Last on the priority list, though not without much passionate support nevertheless, were the tennis courts, the Silver-tree facilities, the Elk Street hillside area and the Bosworth frontage site.

There are some drawbacks to the proposed first phase—mainly that some sorely needed and desired projects will be pushed into a second phase, especially the major improvements to the Rec Center building.

The master planning process for the park improvements should be wrapped up by the later part of this year, said Sam Staley of the WRT landscape design team. The plan will then need approval by Rec and Park and the Board of Supervisors. A design team will be hired and will take around eight months to complete the plans.

Mark your calendars: Construction begins June 2012.

For more information, visit <http://www.sfrecpark.org/glenparkproject.aspx>



Maps show the proposed new plan for Glen Canyon Park and the current facilities.

Map courtesy of San Francisco Recreation and Park Dept.

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Happy Oyster Time is Rush Hour at Sel et Vin



Diners at Sel et Vin enjoy Happy Oyster on Sunday afternoon.

Photo by Michael Waldstein

Glen Park has added yet another notch to its trendy belt. Sel et Vin (“Salt and Wine”) is the newly re-imagined Chenery Street wine bar with a menu that will transport you to Paris without the security pat-down or the 10-hour flight.

In its previous incarnation, the bar was named Red+White and had many of the same features. It was opened in January 2010 by proprietors Juliana Flores, then nine months pregnant, and her partner, Peter Bell. Now Juliana’s baby is 15 months old, and the wine bar has also grown, since Laurent Legendre of the restaurant le P’tit Laurent across the street entered the scene.

Says Legendre: “They approached me to be a part of it; it’s close to my restaurant. People don’t have to go downtown, they can stay around here, and I like the spot.” He points out that the two businesses are complementary—people waiting for a table at Legendre’s place can enjoy an appetizer at Sel et Vin: “We work together as two different businesses.”

With the partnership, the wine bar implemented new hours. They now open later, at 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 4 p.m. on Friday, Satur-

day and Sunday. Unlike the restaurant, reservations aren’t necessary at Sel et Vin.

The biggest hit so far has been Happy Oyster on Sunday from 4:30 to 6 p.m.—or until they run out—when all oysters are \$1 each.

The regular menu offers a bowl overflowing with mussels and a cone of frites. The mussels are prepared two ways—mariniere (white wine and garlic, not to be confused with marinara), or a la jalapeno. A basket of French bread comes in handy to sop up the broth. The frites are crispy, salt-flecked and addictive.

The menu is designed to gratify all manner of cravings. In addition to the oysters and mussels, there are plates with assorted charcuterie, five varieties of cheese, and vegetables. Salads are offered with smoked salmon or trout.

Then, of course, there’s the wine. Red+White featured mostly California wines (nothing wrong with that!); since the coming of Legendre, Sel et Vin serves a divided selection of California and French wines.

The interior has taken on the look of a cozy, warm French café, with more seating capacity at tables, in addition to the wine bar and the oyster bar. High-octane music (Latin disco perhaps?)

plays in the background—kind of un-French—yet provides a nice energetic buzz. Legendre is working on bringing in some live music.

The first Tuesday of each month there is a wine tasting—five wines for \$15. Events centering on French culture, such as Bastille Day, are in the offing. Hours will be adjusted for Mother’s Day celebrations and other special occasions. Soon, a flat-screen television will

be showing popular sporting events, like Giants games and the World Series.

Sitting at the oyster bar, you can watch it all happening. Most times, the atmosphere is laid back. On Sunday, with the oyster special, it can be hectic. Diners descend all at once at Happy Oyster time and it’s a mad dash to handle the onslaught.

Julien Walck started as a busboy at le P’tit Laurent, then became a server, and now he turns on his charm as the manager of Sel et Vin. He makes sure you get a warm welcome and your glass of wine right away. Legendre runs in from across the street to help get over the oyster rush.

Arturo Vasquez is Sel et Vin’s unflappable chef, shucking oysters and chatting about his other vocation as a crab fisherman. He confides that he prefers steak or chicken when he dines out.

A platter of five varieties of oysters comes out. Some are larger, some are smaller, all are fresh and—oystery. Slosh a simple brew of red wine vinegar and shallots on them.

Apologies to oyster connoisseurs reading this and hoping for a description of the finer points. You’ll just have to try them yourself. ■

Sel et Vin
678 Chenery St.
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Arturo Vasquez, chef at Sel et Vin.

Photo by Michael Waldstein

I Love You, Too: Lessons on a Fence

Starting on Thanksgiving weekend 2010 and building to a crescendo on Valentine's Day 2011, art has been "blooming" beautifully on a Cyclone fence on Chenery Street near the corner of Diamond Street.

It began with a single black-and-white painted wooden plaque stating, "I love you, too." During the next months new messages blossomed: "You are enough," "xoxo," "In all of my life I have never met anyone as beautiful as you."

The messages seemed to grow each night, with every walk down Chenery prompting a stop to appreciate the new appearances and to ponder exactly what they meant. Was it a public Valentine to a particular person? (How sweet!) If not, what exactly was it?

A chance meeting revealed the artist to be Shannon Weber, a social worker and mother of three who lives in a cozy Glen Park residence near the fence. Her first fence piece, *I love you, too* was originally designed as a basketball backboard with a message aimed at her children. When attempting to hang it, she found the dimensions were all wrong, and came up with an idea: "I had been trying to grow flowers up that fence forever, but I lacked a water source, so I thought, what do I have? I have wood and I have paint, and that's when I decided to hang the signs on the fence."

At around the same time a Glen Park friend gave her the idea to start a blog site, www.loveyou2.org, where stories of love are posted and "I love you" sheets can be downloaded with *I love you, too* tear-off sections. These signs have been sighted all over the city and beyond, as documented on Weber's blog site.

At first, she said, "I used to put the pieces out at night, when no one was looking. But then I thought, who am I to not give away love? The messages originally were intended for my children, but then I realized the words were going out into the universe and a little bit of hope could change people."

Weber's kids started getting involved, dragging recycled pieces of wood and glass home for "the fence." While she was making the *Love is loud* piece, one of her sons took her aside to tell her that it was a powerful message and—no offense, mom—she needed to do a little more with it. They finished the piece together.

The signs cover a broad range of sentiments. One is a quote from American poet Mary Oliver: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Another sign has writing



The chain link fence outside Weber's apartment has been transformed into an ongoing community art show.

Photo by Chris Hardy

made of antique sheet music, one side reading "The bright side" and the other side "The wrong side."

"We all have the wrong side of the day, and I wanted to show my kids that the bright side can often be just on the other side," Weber said. Two sides of another sign read "Give" and "Receive."

The fence is at times interactive, with a hanging clipboard and "I love you" sheets.

On Thanksgiving 2010, the prompt was "I am thankful for...". One post stated, "I am thankful for the man who taught me to read when I was 5 years old, and I am now 79!"

On New Years the prompt was "In 2011..." and posts read: "I am not going judge myself anymore" and "I am going to dance!"

One post responding to the Valentine's Day statement "I love you because ..." was, "You show me the goodness in the world and help me share it."

Recently the flowers in Weber's bottle vases were wilting. Overnight they were surprisingly replaced with fresh calla lilies by someone unknown, an act that delighted her: "Calla lilies are my favorite flower in the universe! I'm going to walk around like the character in *Somebody loves you, Mr. Hatch*, wondering who you are," she wrote on her blog. ■

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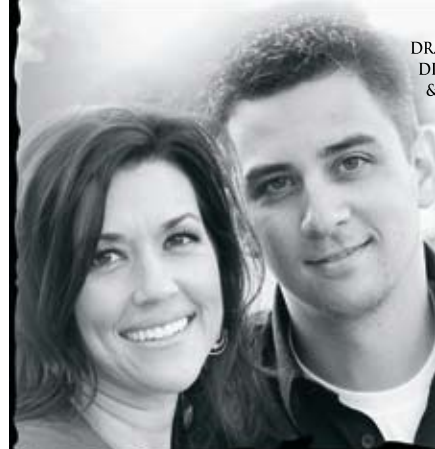


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The Little Red Hen Community Garden, next to the San Francisco Police Academy on Diamond Heights.

Photo by Richard Craib

Neighbors Transform Vacant Lot into Fruitful Community Garden that Grows Food and Friendship

The footprint at the San Francisco Police Academy, at the corner of Duncan and Amber streets, changed dramatically on Sunday, May 8, as 25 garden plots, each 45 feet square, were shoveled into place by 40 neighborhood urban gardeners. Each person had raked up \$60 to become a charter member of The Little Red Hen Community Garden.

by Murray Schneider

Before their morning work ended and an afternoon BBQ was ignited, gopher-detering chicken wire was affixed to the bottoms of each frame, each plot was geometrically laid out and staked to the ground, and each butted frame was enriched with fertilized soil.

What used to be a hardscrabble triangle of weeds and debris soon will blossom into productive gardens, with 12- by 4-foot rectangular swaths of earth housing beans, tomatoes, peas, herbs and leafy vegetables.

Relaxing after her Sunday labors, Tina Will, who has lived nearby on Turquoise Way for 10 years, surveyed her altered Diamond Heights landscape, carpeted now with blankets of topsoil and mulch. Crisscrossed rakes, stacked

shovels and earth-caked wheelbarrows lay idly alongside garden hoses and compost bins.

“This was a vacant lot, an eyesore filled with broken glass, a forgotten piece of land,” Will said. “Now it will become a prominent part of our community.”

Charles Grisli, who lives on Topaz Way and who plans to raise eggplant, zucchini, lettuce and patches of marigolds—which he believes will repel insects—echoed Will: “Visually this space will be much more attractive than a lot full of weeds,” he observed, envisioning working four hours a week.

Galen Hashimoto, a finance director for a real estate company, who grew up in Hawaii and has lived on Duncan Street for six months, plans to grow Japanese cucumbers and tomatoes, cultivating his green thumb two hours a week. “These gardens are a great way to get to know my neighbors,” he said while raking his plot, “especially since I just moved here.”

Margie Jang, a nurse at California Pacific, has lived on Red Rock Way for 14 years. She also plans to put in two hours a week tending her butter leaf lettuce, Swiss chard, radishes and carrots.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Sales in Glen Park this Year

ADDRESS	DOM*	LISTING PRICE	SALE PRICE
Single Family Homes			
537 Congo Glen Park	125	\$500,000	\$325,000
15 Surrey St Glen Park	42	\$599,950	\$540,000
91 Whitney St Glen Park	8	\$600,000	\$575,000
5 Surrey St Glen Park	35	\$599,000	\$641,000
19 Mizpah St Glen Park	28	\$689,000	\$699,000
122 Stillings Ave Glen Park	106	\$599,000	\$715,000
182 Lippard Ave Glen Park	13	\$799,000	\$812,000
27 Malta Dr Glen Park	127	\$925,000	\$875,000
104 Laidley Glen Park	28	\$959,000	\$975,000
334 Laidley St Glen Park	40	\$995,000	\$985,000
40 Sussex St Glen Park	59	\$1,149,000	\$1,064,000
1709 Sanchez Glen Park	26	\$1,099,000	\$1,099,000
43 Nordhoff St Glen Park	27	\$1,095,000	\$1,100,000
26 Roanoke St Glen Park	8	\$1,195,000	\$1,183,500
2330 Diamond St Glen Park	41	\$1,395,000	\$1,270,000
181 Randall Glen Park	91	\$1,529,000	\$1,310,000
Condo/Coop/TIC/Loft			
34 Natick Glen Park	61	\$699,000	\$621,000
1866 Church Glen Park	68	\$1,499,000	\$1,425,000

*DOM = Days on Market

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Community Plan Covers Glen Park Improvements

Inch by inch, Glen Park moves ever closer to realizing improvements to the neighborhood's downtown core.

The 2010 Glen Park Community Plan, once it is complete, will be the result of a process begun by **Bonnee** in 2003, then shelved due to lack of funds, and **Waldstein** revived in 2009 when money became available to generate the required environmental impact report (EIR).

The boundaries of the plan are Chenery Street to the north; Roanoke Street to the east; San Jose Avenue and Bosworth Street to the south; and Elk Street to the west.

On April 27 the San Francisco Planning Department issued its Draft EIR, describing possible improvements in land use and urban design, transportation and open space; what negative impacts might result; and how they might be mitigated.

The report is the result of a joint effort among San Francisco's Planning Commission, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Public Utilities Commission, and the Glen Park community.

There was a public hearing on the Draft EIR on June 2, and a comment period that ended on June 13. Modifications will be made to the draft based on the comments and responses, and the



A Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. at the intersection of Diamond and Bosworth. Note the motorcycle turning into the crosswalk through the pedestrians.

Photo by **Michael Waldstein**

result will be issuance of the Final EIR, which will be followed by a certification hearing.

Then:

If adopted by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors and signed off by the mayor, the Glen

Park Community Plan will become part of the general City plan and will provide a framework for investment in developments that take place in Glen Park over the next 20 years.

Improvements that are implemented will be funded by a combination of \$3 million secured by the late Rep. Tom Lantos; existing City programs; and local, regional and state grants, according to Jon Swae of the Planning Department.

The Planning Department seeks to reassure Glen Park residents that it knows what we're all about: "The Glen Park community's special character is created by the unique combination of eclectic building styles, pedestrian scale, the layering of green space and buildings climbing into the canyon, public spaces, walkable streets, a compact village, and proximity to transit and the canyon. Every new development project, whether public or private, must incorporate these features based on principles of good design and human scale."

In appearance, the report looks like the product of a complex bureaucratic process. To add a bit of mystery, one cannot readily see how many pages there are—only each of the six sections is numbered. Add to that three appendices, numerous tables and figures, a glossary, a list of acronyms, and we end up with a massive tome weighing in just shy of three-and-a-half pounds.

One thing that is often unclear

about the EIR is that it is not proposing or endorsing specific projects. What it does is to evaluate the environmental impact on likely solutions to a few key problems in Glen Park.

In addition, the EIR is designed to evaluate possibilities that are the most impactful. For example, it describes potential development of two available spaces.

The first is at the northwest corner of Diamond and Bosworth streets (the Bernie Kelly office space) including the Kern Street corridor, where development could include 47 residential units, 8,582 square feet of commercial space and 26 parking spaces. It is unlikely that this would come to fruition, but the planning process cannot evaluate multiple tiers of development without it becoming too expensive and unwieldy. So they look at the pros and cons of the maximum development potential in a given area.

The second site is the BART parking lot. BART has its own planning process for the site, so the draft EIR makes no suggestions. But whatever BART comes up with must be compatible with the community plan.

Glen Park is basically "built out"—that is, there's not much room for new development.

Another land use element addressed by the EIR is rezoning of the downtown commercial area, from a generic small-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Tom Coulter
Notary Public

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These crumbling condos on Rousseau Street may be at least partially torn down. Units around the corner on Bosworth (right) are in better shape and are now being finished.

Photo
by
Ellen
Rosenthal

Encore for a Long-Dormant Condo Construction Project

After years of complex legal proceedings, neighborhood complaints and exposure to the elements, the partially completed 12-unit condominium project at 412-418 Bosworth St. and 2-10 Rousseau St. was sold in December at a "trustee sale" on the Civic Center courthouse steps for \$4.3 million.

The foreclosed project was purchased in its entirety by Encore Housing Opportunity Fund, whose website identifies Encore as "a private equity fund focused on opportunities produced by distress in the U.S. housing sector." Encore has an investment capacity of more than \$350 million dollars, and to date has focused on distressed housing developments in Florida and California, locations that have historically experienced positive growth trends in population and employment.

The purchase included eight units on Bosworth Street that were 70-80 percent complete, and four around the corner on Rousseau Street that were 15-20 percent complete at the time of transfer. Encore also received on-site materials and original plans and specifications. According

to local Encore representative Robert Huggins, outstanding mechanics' liens amounting to nearly \$50,000 were settled before the foreclosure.

After purchasing the project, Encore received bids from two contractors to complete the project, and selected local firm Keegan Construction. The original, expired permits were renewed earlier this year.

"We are currently working on the Bosworth Street units, finishing garage doors, installing remaining tile and carpet, some drywall, cabinets and drive-ways," said Huggins. "Specifications are being slightly altered from the original plans so that each unit, although similar in space, will show uniquely."

The initial focus of the construction will be the nearly completed Bosworth condos. Once those are completed, work will move to the units on Rousseau, which will require demolition and more extensive construction.

Huggins explained that Encore plans to take down the section of the Rousseau Street structure that is closest to San Jose Avenue, because of its deterioration because of prolonged the exposure to the elements. Target date for that demoli-

tion was June 15. Part of the Rousseau Street building that has siding on it and is closer to Bosworth Street may be salvaged; testing has indicated that much of it is sound, and more testing is planned, Huggins said.

Marketing of the revived project will begin "softly" after July 4, Huggins said. The Bosworth units are scheduled to be finished and on the market by August. New prices have not yet been determined. The original 2009 sales documents listed

prices for the units ranging from \$650,000 for a one-bedroom, one-and-one-half-bath unit, to \$1,299,000 for a five-bedroom, four-and-one-half-bath unit.

Encore has been communicating regularly via e-mails and phone with a local neighbor, Leslie Ren Terry, who said, "We are all very excited about seeing some action moving forward. We want our sidewalks and streets back, and we are eager to see landscaped houses that are no longer construction sites, but homes!" ■

Fred Galarneau

Glen Park Ambassador Remembered

A fixture in the village for more than 30 years, Fred Galarneau, longtime cashier at Tyger's coffee shop, died peacefully on April 1 at age 77. He is survived by a son, Eric Utto-Galarneau, and a daughter, Anita Andrews. He is also survived by his former wife, Inge Loeffler.

Fred was discharged from the U.S. Army in 1972 after 22 years of service, including tours in Korea, Vietnam and Germany. His last years in the military were spent as a drummer and bass player with the Army Band at the Presidio.

Fred lived above the Bank of America on Diamond Street, then above Egg-ettes, and he didn't have to go far to get to work—just across Chenery to Tyger's where he punched the cash register from 1986 until he retired seven years ago.

"He was a very friendly guy," remembered Sandy Nam, who worked with Fred for five years. "He knew everyone in the neighborhood and made customers laugh."

At Glen Park Cleaners, Tommy Baik echoed Sandy: "Fred was a nice guy."

Joining the same chorus, Hal Tauber at Glen Park Hardware said, "Fred was a very friendly face when you walked into Tyger's. He made a welcoming greeter."

Fred's role as ambassador to the neighborhood didn't stop at Tyger's front door. "Fred told us all about the neighborhood," reminisced Shannon Weber, a social worker for UCSF and a mother of three children, who emigrated from the Marina District nearly four years ago. "He hooked us into all the businesses."

Camaraderie was Fred's coin of the realm.

"My dad and mom remained good friends after they separated," recalled Fred's son Eric. "Mom would travel to the city every year and they'd attend the San Francisco Jazz Festival together."

The chords of tenor saxophones weren't the only sounds sweetening Fred's life.

"Inge would come to the city and clean for Fred," offered Shannon Weber, who often heard the hum of Inge's vacuum cleaner. "And she'd always bring the most delicious German sugar cookies."

Fred's sweet tooth, which he indulged while at Tyger's, didn't go unnoticed. "Fred always ordered candy," remembers Sandy Nam. "UPS would deliver it here."

Glen Park Hardware's Susan Tauber tells her own confectionary tale: "Fred

always bought Girl Scout cookies from my daughter."

Fred's son has his own take on it. "My dad lived life simply and he wasn't a complicated man," said Eric, an Evangelical Lutheran Church minister who lives in Aberdeen, Washington. "He really enjoyed being with people and working at Tyger's."

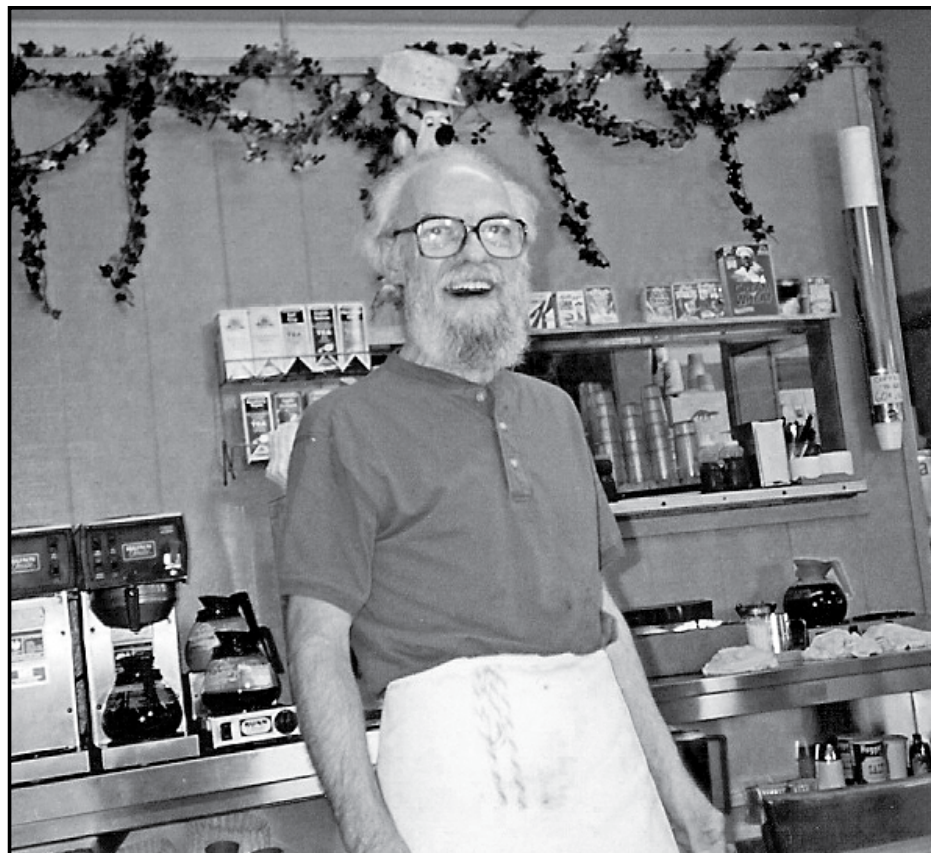
Fred was born in Springfield, Massachusetts. After he was discharged from the Army he first tended bar at the Tee Off Bar and Grill on Clement Street before wending his way down O'Shaughnessy Boulevard to Diamond Street. He never gave up his love for jazz, and after toting up breakfast and lunch tabs at Tyger's during the 1980s he meandered south to Daly City and played bass at Westlake Joe's.

"He enjoyed playing, but never did it for the money," said Eric, who tops off at 6 feet 5 inches. "He was my Little Dad." Fred, who was not an inch over 5 feet 6 inches and weighed probably 140, lived his life uniquely, according to his son.

"Dad was ultimately a jazz musician," said Eric. "Like jazz, life to him had its thematic threads but it also offered him an opportunity to play his own riffs." Recalling his father's love of good eateries as well as melodies and rhythms, Eric fashioned a favorite recipe of his father's, one that included both music and food: "Whether going to excellent restaurants or attending well-performed jazz events, my father believed that whatever your passion was you should go for it."

Sort of the stuff of legends. Emblematic of a life well lived. You wouldn't get much of an argument from Shannon Weber, whom Fred inducted into Glen Park's cultural and culinary delights. "He was a legend to us," she smiled.

And Fred's legacy? "After he passed," Weber said, "Inge gave her sugar cookie recipe to my children. That's love, right? How sweet is that!" ■



Fred Galarneau, who was the cashier at Tyger's, from 1986 to 2004, died on April 1, 2011.
Photo courtesy of Galarneau family

Chat with Marc Dickow-Realtor

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District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, Glen Park Merchants Association President Ric Lopez, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and his wife Anita cut the ribbon to open the Glen Park Farmers' Market on May 15.

Photos by Chris Hardy



Farmers' Market

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Association President Michael Rice.

Lopez then introduced San Francisco Mayor and Glen Park resident Ed Lee. After a roaring cheer from the crowd, Lee thanked both Silveira and Lopez and said, "I'm a big fan of strong neighborhoods and this makes our neighborhood really strong—and of course makes my wife happy too." Lee's wife, Anita, expressed her delight with the market, saying: "I love it! I like to get fresh food every day and I would go to the Alameny market, but the parking is so hard! This is right here and I can walk!"

Mayor Lee thanked District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener and District Attorney George Gascon—both present for the ceremony—as well as the participating vendors and dedicated shoppers.

Wiener also spoke, and emphasized how optimistic he is about Glen Park and how the Farmers' Market is a part of that enthusiasm: "We are seeing a trend to getting back to the basics of what we used to know how to do fifty or a hundred years ago, and then we lost touch with, and that is having great public spaces where we get out regularly and we get to know our neighbors and we have a real strong community, and farmers' markets are a big part of that."

He added, "I think it's also a part of a real renaissance in Glen Park—we're going to see improvements in the canyon, improvements by the BART station. We already have a terrific branch library here, and this neighborhood is on the way up,

even higher than it already is, and that's pretty high!"

Similar sentiments came from Glen Park residents like Rose Berryessa, who said, "This is bringing everyone together and I give it a thumbs up plus!"

Twenty-year Glen Park neighbor Kym Sites said she thinks it's great and "we're all excited about it."

More than 20 vendors were offering everything from berries, cherries and fresh-cut flowers to hand-made goat cheese and wild local salmon. Leafy greens like dandelion and dino kale were just about as popular as the organic strawberries and white peaches.

Steve Dugan of Glen Park's Mizpah Street said, "I like the consistent high quality of the produce here, versus having to pick through more produce at the Alameny market to find the higher-quality items."

JoHannah Adams-King of Diamond Street described the market as "marvelous" but wished her dog could have come in with her to shop. She thought at the very least a designated place for dogs should be available within the parking lot. Smoking and dogs are not allowed in the Farmer's Market shopping area.

The Glen Park Farmers' Market will be open on the BART parking lot on Sundays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. through October 16. ■



For more information on the Glen Park and other local Bay Area farmers' markets, visit www.pcfma.com/markets.php



Time Stands Still Across Glen Park

Twice a year we can see it coming: Daylight Saving Time (DST) began this year on Sunday, March 13 and will end Sunday, Nov. 6. On both dates we reset all our clocks. And clock-radios. And DVRs, VCRs,

by
Denis Wade

answering machines, microwave ovens, light timers, all those myriad electronic gadgets that are designed to simplify modern life.

What we couldn't see coming this spring were two power outages that required traipsing around the house, resetting all those devices, again and again.

And we're not done yet. PG&E "is excited to inform you" that it will soon be installing "SmartMeter™ technology" on gas and electric meters in Glen Park. Get ready to have your electricity shut off once again. More on that in a minute. First the involuntary failures:

At 8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1, less than three weeks after we finished resetting everything to DST, a blackout affected about 5,000 San Francisco customers, including a swath of Glen Park, for periods ranging from about half an hour to nearly three hours. The cause: An underground cable failed.

Just five weeks later, on Saturday morning, May 7, some customers' power "blinked" off for several seconds just after 7 a.m., then went off altogether at 7:46 for more than an hour, in over 5,000 homes. A cross-arm on a pole at Diamond and Clipper streets failed, and PG&E "de-energized" the affected section—including much of Glen Park—so they could safely replace the faulty equipment. At least it was light so you didn't have to dig out your candles.

To be sure, PG&E rectified these equipment problems promptly. Their media spokesman sent profuse apologies to customers who were affected.

Getting Smart

In a May 24 letter to neighborhood customers, PG&E again apologized, this time for the inconvenience the utility will cause when it installs new (mandatory) digital electric meters in Glen Park in "the next several weeks"—June or July.

If your old analog meter is accessible to the street, there is apparently no way to stop PG&E from swapping it out for a new digital "smart" model. Their installer



Scenes from our first Farmers' Market: Mayor Lee gets some cherries, flowers for sale. *Photos by Chris Hardy*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Strollin' with Dolan

The Probable Primeval People of Islais Creek

Islais Creek has a slender tree-like shape and is about four miles long. It runs from approximately the Balboa Park neighborhood to Islais Creek Channel (across the

by
**Dolan
Eargle**

Third Street drawbridge at Evans Avenue near the central waterfront). It follows roughly the length of

Aleman Boulevard, from Sickles Street in the Outer Mission, carrying off the water (and other stuff) shed from neighborhoods including Glen Park, Diamond Heights, Sunnyside, Excelsior, Miraloma Park, much of the Outer Mission and parts of Bayview and Portola.

Except for a stretch in Glen Canyon Park, and its outlet near the Bay, Islais Creek is completely underground.

Are there any indications of habitation or use by the earliest people in our little stretch of the creek? Items to look for would be such things as bedrock mortars for grinding acorns—but there are almost no oaks around here. Also, abalone shell parts, or bones, would be evidence, but none have been found. Maybe scattered California buckeye trees, used as backup when acorns were scarce—but none exist here now. Both Richard Craib (Friends of Glen Canyon Park) and Lisa Wayne (an SF Recreation and Park Department supervisor) have pretty well combed Glen Canyon Park and have reported no such findings.



Does this mean there were no Native American inhabitants? No way! In 1908, University of California archaeologist Nels Nelson ran across one of the largest shellmounds in the entire Bay Area, near the end of Selby Street, where the creek spills into the Bay. He supervised the excavation of this 3-meter-high mound in 1910, and found some 23 burials and dozens of artifacts. They now reside in the Hearst Museum at UC Berkeley. Proof enough that Islais Creek was a very important residence site of the earliest Ohlone Indians.

By the way, shellmounds are *not* garbage dumps. They are repositories where objects once touched or enlivened

by human hands were deposited after use—food scraps, decayed or damaged straw and wood, broken stones, pottery, even including the dead. Visit the Coyote Hills Park Museum in Fremont for an excellent presentation on the topic.

The Ohlone people in our part of the Peninsula were known as the Muwekma; the band in our part of San Francisco was the Yelamu. Three Ohlone village sites are known near here. One, a temporary camp, was Chutchui, at the mission lake, at present-day Dolores Park. Our local Maya and Aztec Indians hold their New Year sunrise ceremony at this site—the month varies according to their calendar. The mission lake, long-since filled in, now is only a dark green seep near the center of the park. The Maya revere and honor sacred water sources.

The band that made Islais Creek its home on the wide marsh where the creek met tidewater was the village named Amuctac, the site of the shellmound. Tubsinte was the next village south, at Visitacion Valley.

As was the custom of California's Indian bands, each village would claim and make use of the ecology of an entire creek watershed, including the tidal marsh, for its livelihood. Judging from the present-day year-round water supply and abundant vegetation of the north fork of Islais Creek, Glen Canyon had to have been especially valuable to the Indian band. Although no village remnants have been found in Glen Park, without doubt the streams and flat spaces were used for worksites. After a day's work, the village itself wasn't very far away.

In the 1770s, the Yelamu were rounded up into Mission Dolores. Some fled eastward. The band passed away—many were buried at the mission in unmarked graves. The once-bountiful marsh was filled in with rubble from the 1906 earthquake. Today, Highways U.S. 101 and Interstate 280, and CalTrain, Union Pacific and San Francisco Belt railroad tracks pass above the creek, and the

ugly, blocked-off tail end of Selby Street now covers the site of Amuctac.

Some incidentals:

**Look carefully for
the notch on
Candlestick Hill.**

**It is packed with a
dense forest of wild
cherry trees—
up close they
look like holly.**

At the Mission Dolores burial ground there is a newly constructed Ohlone tipi (tule and sapling), an exact replica of the type that was at Amuctac. Visit and muse.

In the early days of determining the names of local Native American languages, there was no name for the language families of the Peninsula and East Bay. These small tribes using the most similar languages were grouped under the name "Costanoan" (at the coast). So as not to be insulting to any one village group, the name "Ohlone" was adopted, taken from the name of a small coastal village, Ol-Jón, where Pescadero is today. ■

Sources: *San Francisco's Glen Park and Diamond Heights*, p. 17, Emma Bland Smith; Ohlone Tribal Historian Al Leventhal, CSU San Jose; Mission Dolores Ohlone Guide Andrew Galvan; Histo-

rian Lee Davis, San Francisco State U.; UC Berkeley Archaeological Collections online; www.islaiscreek.org/ohlonehistorybackground.html and links on the Muwekma Ohlone Park; Smithsonian Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 8, California.



Steve Cesena and son, Ohlone dancers, in dance regalia at Coyote Hills Ohlone Gathering, from *Native California: An Introductory Guide To The Original Peoples from Earliest to Modern Times* by Dolan Eargle.



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neighborly news from sunnyside

I had the privilege of attending two events in Glen Park during the month of May. The Glen Park Festival was a great success. I enjoyed spending the day at the booth that the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association shared with the Friends of the Sunnyside Conservatory. Then, two weeks later, the opening of the Glen Park Farmers' Market was another great event. Mayor (and Glen Park resident) Ed Lee and his wife spent almost two hours touring the market and speaking with people.

Mayor Lee is a graduate of Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. When I was a youngster, we used to visit my great aunt and great uncle who had a summer home near Brunswick, right on the Maine coast. The mayor and I got to reminiscing about Maine lobster and strawberry festivals.

The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association is sponsoring several events this summer that I hope will be supported by our neighbors in Glen Park. On Sunday, July 17, we will honor and appreciate the volunteers who have turned that freeway-side strip along Circular Avenue into the Circular Avenue Ribbon Park.

The dedication celebration will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Circular Avenue between Congo and Flood streets. We've invited the mayor and other City officials to join us. We plan to have entertainment, activities for kids, and hot dogs for everyone. The police were at first reluctant to allow us to close a block of Circular Avenue because they thought we wouldn't get enough people to justify it. So I am hoping that several hundred people will show up. My credibility is on the line. Please don't let me down!

On August 13, the SNA is sponsoring a neighborhood-wide garage sale. This is another great opportunity to meet your neighbors and maybe find a few bargains. The person heading up this effort is Kate Mason; her e-mail address is katemason24@gmail.com.

I assume that everyone is also aware that the Safeway on Monterey Boulevard will be undergoing some expansion and renovation. The plans are beginning to work their way through the City bureaucracy. Safeway has put together a website that shows what it is thinking about doing: www.sunnysidesafewaysf.com. Safeway has been very good about coming to SNA meetings and meeting

with neighboring property owners.

Have a great summer and get involved in your neighborhood! ■

Columnist Bill Wilson is president of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, www.snasf.org.

Smart Meters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

will arrive unannounced, knock on your door and proceed with the installation—whether you answer or not.

Maybe you're working on a critical computer project, too busy to answer the door? Or counting on your slow-cooker's timer to have dinner ready when you get home from work? Too bad.

Your electricity will be off for about five minutes. Of course, everything without battery backup will have to be reset, once again.

Before PG&E arrives with your new, improved meter, you can minimize potential problems. Call the number in their

letter—1-866-743-0263.

If you're cool with the new technology, ask for an installation appointment. PG&E has long weekday windows—8 a.m.–noon, or 1–5 p.m. At least you'll be able to anticipate the knock on your door. You can request a heads-up call just before the installer arrives—but if he or she is around the corner don't count on getting one; listen for the knock.

On the day of your appointment, a PG&E representative suggests that you put a prominent note on your door for the installer, to ensure against a surprise shutoff. The note can ask the installer to call you. (You must weigh the advisability of posting your phone number on your door where anyone could see it.)

Customers who are opposed to, or concerned about, the new meters probably can't avoid having them installed eventually. But there are delaying tactics. Tell the PG&E representative at 1-866-743-0263 that you want your installation deferred till the California Public Utilities Commission issues its ruling concerning the digital meters' radio-frequency transmitters.

PG&E spokesman Joe Molica notes that "the radio frequency that a smart meter emits is 1/1000 of a typical cell phone. Remember, you're holding a cell phone to your head, while smart meters

are near an outside wall. So you'd have to have one next to your head for more than 1,000 years to get the same exposure you get in one day with a cell phone."

PG&E has announced a plan to let customers opt out of electronic meter-reading and turn off the transmitters in the new meters, which would then be read the old-fashioned way, by humans on foot. But opting out would cost substantial initial charges, plus closing charges when service is terminated, and a monthly charge of up to \$20—a steep price for a new service one doesn't want in the first place. The CPUC's ruling on that plan is expected this summer.

The state commission has already concluded that the meters are safe. A PG&E representative noted that most people already expose themselves to minor amounts of radiation daily, from sources such as cell phones and microwave ovens.

Asking PG&E to delay your installation will put you on a list and bring you another letter before the company sends someone to change the meter—assuming the installer gets a copy of the list and is paying attention.

Gas meters—good news—will not be replaced, but will be retrofitted with addition of "a small module" that will transmit information, but won't require interrupting the gas service. At least your pilot lights are safe.

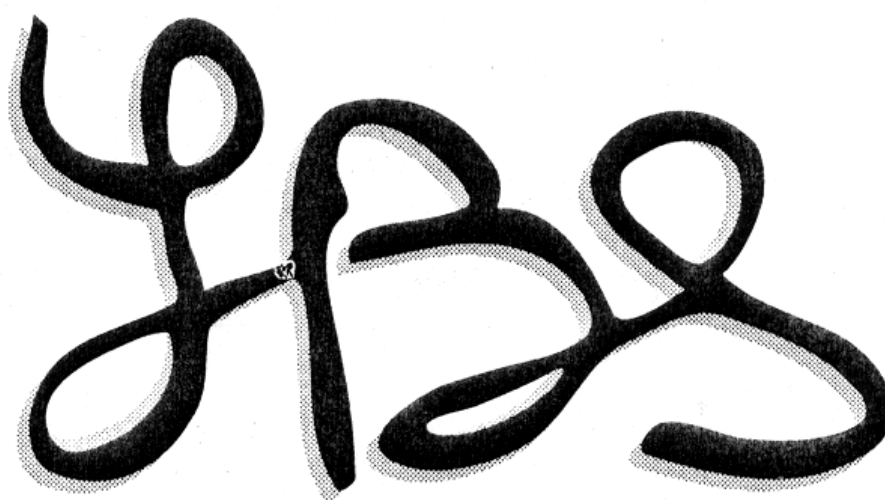
And—surprise—the *Examiner* reported in March that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission had already "quietly" installed some 29,000 "smart" water meters in the city, and expects to have 178,000 of them in place by the end of 2012, with no controversy to date.

Thousands of "smart" electric meters also have been installed in the city. Many houses on Chenery, for example, got the new meters last year when gas pipeline upgrade work was being done.

For some of those customers, the new meters can't be turned on soon enough. The contract workers who installed them told residents that the meters no longer had to be visible from the street because they would automatically transmit their data to PG&E.

However, that turned out to be wrong; they won't be turned on for a year or more. As a result, many houses began receiving scolding letters from the utility, telling them their meter could not be read (duh!) and leading to odd bills. Residents were instructed to go back to the extremely old fashioned method of taking their own meter reading, moving the hands on a little PG&E plastic card.

One final suggestion from PG&E: If you receive a letter from the utility don't just toss it in the junk-mail bin; it could be important information about this transition. ■



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school news

Sunnyside Elementary School

The last month of school was filled with activity at Sunnyside Elementary.

Jeanette Albrecht has joined Sunnyside as Math Specialist; the PTA funded her position. She will work with small groups of in the upper grades on a weekly basis, and create grade-specific math and science projects that teachers easily can incorporate in their curriculum.

Sunnyside received 15 used computers, which were donated by Tenderloin Technology Lab. The Technology Committee will be placing the computers in Sunnyside's classrooms.

The school also received a \$4,600 grant from Ashbury Children's Foundation! These vital funds will be used for music in grades K-3 and for Art Cart in 2011-2012.

Our students participated in the Young at Art Festival at the de Young Museum. Music and dance groups performed outside. On display was a book of poetry written by first- and second-grade students as well as artwork by Amber

Jones, fourth grade; Mark Evangelista, fifth grade; Ethan Weir, second grade; Alexis Montuya, third grade; and Odin Nymo Young, second grade.

For Math and Science Night on May 17, each classroom prepared fun experiments for parents and students. Upon completion, students received a stamp on their "science passport." Students who filled their passport received a pencil from Principal John Simard at the end of the evening. Experiments included matching actual animal skulls to each animal's picture, and making "telephones" using paper cups, string and paperclips.

The annual SpringFest carnival on May 21 was the best yet! This year parents, students and the community at large helped Sunnyside raise almost \$20,000 to support vital school programs in art, music, reading and math, and artist-in-residency programs. This year featured a silent auction, a raffle grand prize trip to Disneyland for four including airfare and hotel, and the debut of the amazing aerial dance "Wall Ball - Throw Yourself In" performed during the last week of school by Flyaway Productions. Many thanks to Jo Kreiter, Flyaway's artistic director/choreographer and Sunnyside

parent for dedicating two years of work to create this site-specific performance (see photo on Page 19).

Thursday, Aug. 11 will be the Sunnyside Kindergarten Welcome Night. At 5:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. student assignments will be announced and teachers will meet parents. Sunnyside students will report back to school Monday, Aug. 15 at 8:40 a.m.

Congratulations on another fabulous Glen Park Festival! Many Sunnyside families attended and volunteered, we thank you for sponsoring community programs and look forward to next year's event.

Cathy Meyer is president of the Sunnyside Elementary School PTA

Glen Park Elementary School

Roughly 100 years ago, I imagine that an anxious principal, teachers and students wondered if the construction would ever end. They watched a school take shape—from paper to concrete—and realized that this new school would serve the community for years, in fact for a century to come.

The little village of Glen Park would have a school of its own, making it ever more attractive to families.

During the past year, Glen Park Elementary has leaped from the 20th to the 21st century.

All of us at the school—teachers, students and staff—breathe a sigh of relief and appreciate the work that has been completed on our beloved school. We now have modern wiring, enabling computers in the classroom, a complement to our computer lab; white boards that someday will display documents and videos from document cameras in every classroom; better access for our children with disabilities with new doors and ramps; new paint and floors; less concrete on the yard with space for plants and trees and room for a garden; and a new cafeteria.

The construction will continue over the summer, and by the time classes start in August the work is scheduled to be done.

The San Francisco Unified School District's student assignment process has changed, as well, and it is easier for Glen Park families to have a space at our school. We hope that the majority of neighborhood children will once again

call Glen Park their school, as they did 100 years ago.

We are excited to open our school to the Glen Park community with our grand reopening celebration on Aug. 27. Our plans are still taking shape, but we can't wait to throw a party celebrating our past, our new facility and our next 100 years.

We thank San Francisco voters for their generosity in approving a bond measure to upgrade San Francisco public schools, including Glen Park Elementary. I do wonder what our next 100 years will look like, though, as California voters as a whole are less generous. We have a "doomsday" budget in place for next year because a handful of legislators felt that our state should not be allowed to vote on whether to extend temporary taxes already in place.

Someone once said that a school is four walls with tomorrow inside. The future looks less rosy, but I hope that California will wake up and realize that a dollar spent on education has a massive return on that investment. Once upon a time, California's public school system was the envy of the United States. It is an embodiment of the California dream and opened the doors to economic opportunity for millions. Children had an education that included art, physical education and music teachers. There were counselors, school nurses and librarians. I hope that we can return to this. Despite the repeated bad news from Sacramento, I take a lot of comfort from watching the teachers at our school and seeing what an amazing job they do day in and day out. I love watching the students in my daughter's class become inquisitive scholars with the tools to succeed in the 21st century.

During the final weeks of school I was struck by the dichotomy of the finished wing on the first floor that abruptly stopped and gave way to the old floors and old paint and old ceilings on the other side of the first floor. We have left the past behind. I hope that our state can take a great leap forward in fully funding our future, much like the voters of San Francisco have been willing to do.

If you would like to learn more about the dire state of education, visit www.educateourstate.com. If you would like to be involved in our grand reopening celebration, please contact me at glen-parkpto@gmail.com.

Shelley Wharton Smith is co-president of the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization.

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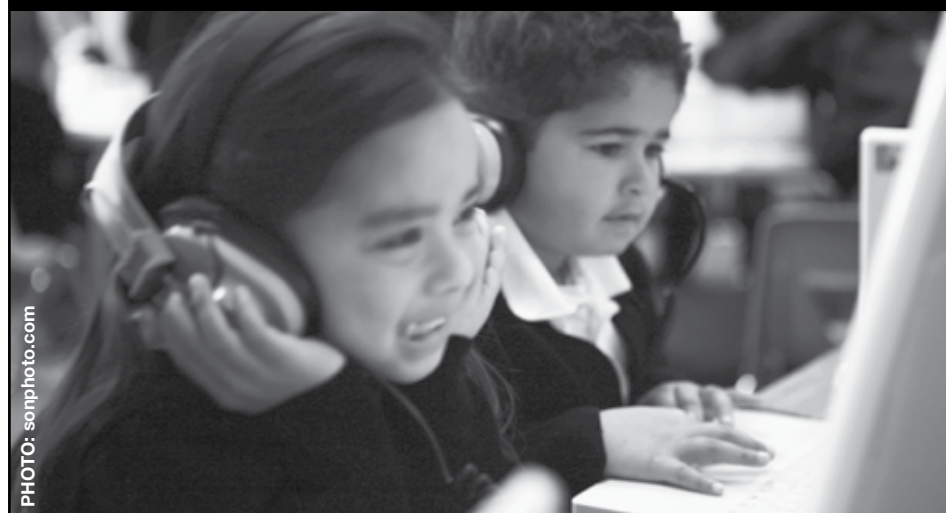
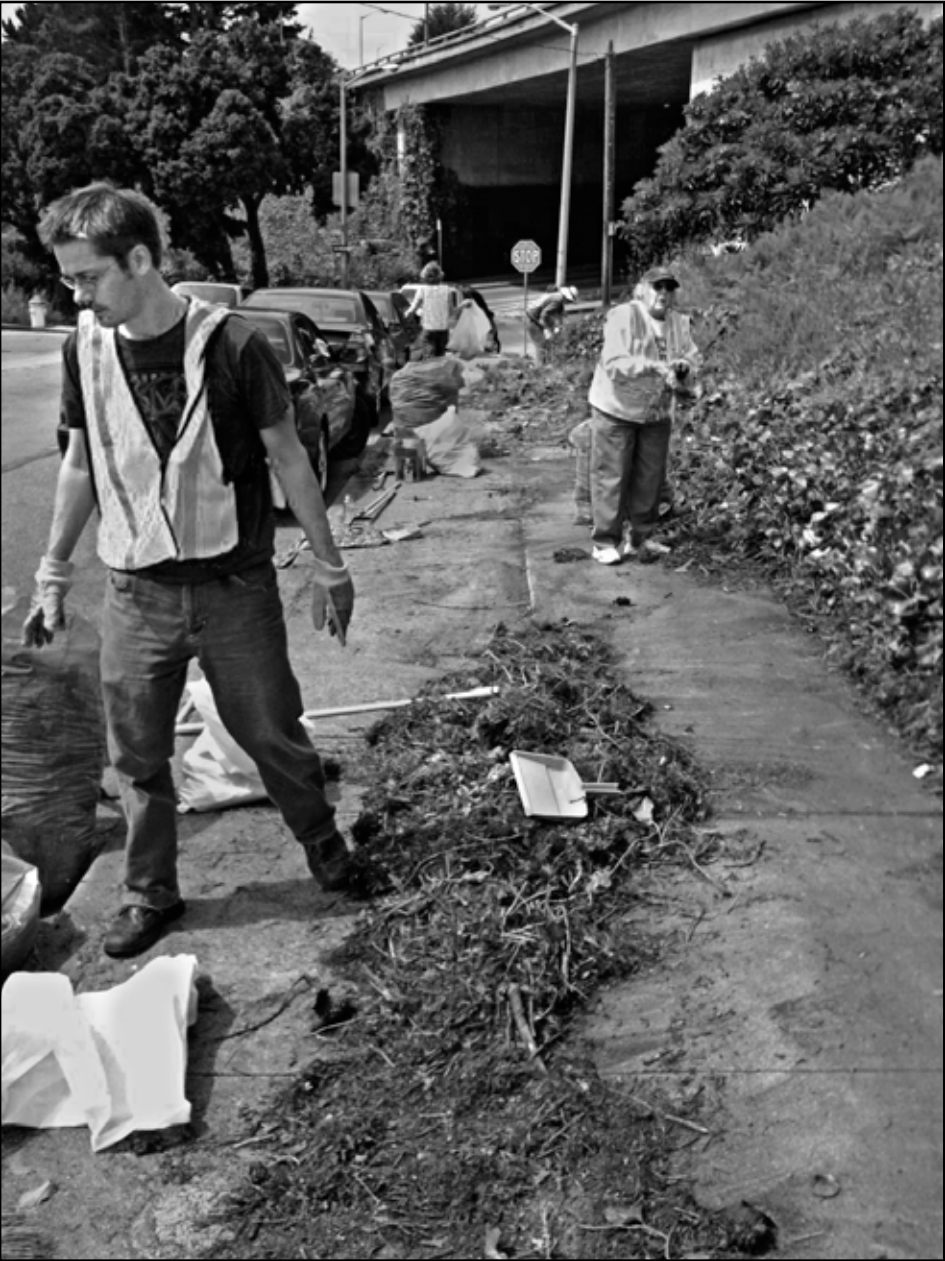


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Cleaning up San Jose Avenue

Neighbors from both sides of “the ditch” gathered on April 23 to clean up a section of San Jose Avenue. At its height, there were close to 60 volunteers working with people from the Department of Public Works to clean up the trash-strewn corridor that abuts Glen Park. Several neighborhood groups promoted the project and participated in the cleanup, including the Bernal Cut Association, the Sunnyside Greening Committee, Bernal Neighbors and the Glen Park Association. Organizers hope to make it an annual event.

Photo above by Bill Wilson, below by Ellen Rosenthal






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Glen Park Festival at 13

May 1 brought clear blue skies, a lovely day and crowds of neighbors heading toward the village by Elizabeth and the 13th annual Glen Park Festival. Weise

This year's Festival featured booths with crafts, information and items for sale, great food, and a bustling children's area at the east end of Wilder Street.

Music on the main stage at Chenery and Diamond streets included kid's band Orange Sherbet, and, for adults, Los Train Wreck, Misisipi Mike's Midnight Gamblers, Jinx Jones and the KingTones, and Valeriana Quevedo and the Cincopatens.

While the first Glen Park festival took place in 1911, the modern-day Festival came back to life in 1997, created by a group of neighbors who had been talking about the neighborhood's many artists and craftspeople. Since then it's been an almost-every-year affair, depending on volunteer energy.

So a big shout out to the neighbors and business owners who made this year's Festival happen—if you run into them on the street, give 'em a standing ovation. They deserve it for dedicating a year's worth of effort to making such a wonderful event happen here in our own front yard.

Angela Bennett: Entertainment
Devin Carraway: Webmaster
Patricia Defonte: Children's Area
Kimberlee Longa: (Glen Park Dental):
Volunteers
Stacey Estes: Vice-President and
Sponsorships
Alyssa Helmke: Vendors

Barry Hooper: Food and Beverage
Jean Kuwamoto: Printing/T-shirts
Carrie Lee (Eyedentity Vision):
Secretary
Dominic Lloyd: Graphic Design
Carlos Longa (Glen Park Dental):
Food and Beverage
Meghan Makielski:
Publicity
Rebecca Murray Metzger:
President
Kara Romanko (Life Gate Acupuncture):
Treasurer and Raffle
Kathleen Tracey: Volunteers
Ann Wagoner: Raffle
Matthew Weiner: Logistics



Scenes from the 2011 Festival.

Photos by Bonnie Rae Mills

news from city hall

I was proud to celebrate with the neighborhood and help cut the ribbon for the Glen Park Farmers' Market. I'd like to thank all the groups that helped make this happen, and particularly the Glen Park Merchants Association. This is a wonderful opportunity for the neighborhood to come together to purchase fresh, organic foods while strengthening a sense of community. I'm confident that the farmers' market will be an important community gathering space for years to come.

In citywide news, the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) has proposed a taxi fare increase that would raise mileage and idling rates, as well as institute an additional fee for calling to be picked up. These increases would make San Francisco the most expensive cab city in the country, while doing nothing to improve our poor cab service. While it's important that our taxi drivers earn a fair wage, currently there isn't sufficient cab service in the city to justify these increases.

This is why I introduced a resolution at the Board of Supervisors opposing the fare increases unless they are linked to improved taxi service, like issuing more peak-hour permits. Reliable taxi service is an essential component of our city's transit-first policy and key to a thriving economy and a safe, enjoyable nightlife.

Speaking of transit, I'm proud to have taken my seat on the Bay Area Metropoli-

tan Transportation Commission (MTC). Mayor Ed Lee appointed me to this key regional planning and funding body for transportation projects. I'm eager to work with my colleagues to improve transit systems in our city and the region.

Finally, as you may know, we've had an ongoing controversy at City Hall regarding whether to allow AT&T to place 726 utility boxes on San Francisco's sidewalks to bring "U-verse" to the city. U-verse is a competitor to Comcast, offering phone, cable and high-speed internet service. Many people have concerns with placement of these boxes on the sidewalk, while many others very much want the service, even if it means tolerating the boxes. We'll be resolving this issue in June, but the U-verse dispute raised the broader issue of how we as a city manage our sidewalks—ensuring that they are vibrant, accessible and consistent with our Better Streets Plan, while making room for the utility and other infrastructure that must at times be placed on them. I've called for a hearing to have the various City departments that manage our public rights-of-way address this issue. I'm prepared to offer legislation, if appropriate, to ensure good planning and implementation for our sidewalks.

Scott Wiener represents Glen Park and other District Eight neighborhoods on the Board of Supervisors.



Sunnyside School Wall Ball

Students don't climb the walls at Sunnyside Elementary School. But Choreographer Jo Kreiter and her dancers did in May, as part of a site-specific piece titled "Wall Ball/Throw Yourself In," performed with vertical hula hoops, jump ropes and balls against the walls of the 1926 school. In collaboration with musician Beth Custer, Wall Ball "explores the intersection between sports and the arts while seeking to address not only the funding cuts that have affected public schools but also the gender inequities that persist in campus sports," Kreiter told the *Chronicle*.

■

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9am Sunday Family Service
This energetic celebration of God's inclusive love is designed to be child-friendly and is also widely attended by many who do not have kids. Coffee and refreshments follow the service.

During the school year, Godly Play begins at 10 o'clock for children 3 to 10. Based on a Montessori model, the children are invited to wonder about the meaning of Biblical stories.

11am Sunday Choral Eucharist
Following the model of more traditional Anglican worship, incense, organ and choral music are used in this high-church service. While it is a very traditional service in most aspects we use more inclusive language in our references to God so that a wider variety of 21st century people may feel included and so that we can continue to expand our image of a loving God. Children are always welcome. Coffee hour follows.

Last Sunday of each month, there is a single combined service at 9:30am followed by brunch.

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Dolores	Fair Oaks	Guerrero
	26th	

in glen canyon park

Glen Canyon Park is home to many examples of rocks on the trails. The rocks you see in the park were once on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean near Fiji. These include several large outcroppings at the top of the canyon, predominantly 300-million-year-old radiolarian chert with some greenstone rocks as well. These rocks are a popular feature for hiking and rock climbing among park visitors.

The current appearance of the site has its origins in the flow of Islais Creek, which eroded the rocks over time, a process that continues to this day. Plants grow among the rocks, such as grasses, poppies and lupine. Some rocks are covered with moss, a flowering plant, or lichen, which is a combination of algae and fungi and is related to the mushroom group of organisms. These are common in park areas and wherever there is natural land.

The rock outcroppings visible at the very top of the canyon are part of the Franciscan formation of radiolarian chert. This is made up of layers of the skeletons of simple-celled organisms, also known as diatoms or radiolarians. When the organisms died, their remains accumulated on the Pacific Ocean floor.

The surface of the earth is broken up into plates on which the continents and oceans are situated, and these plates tend to move around and shift position over time. Over the ages, as the Pacific plate moved east, the compressed remains of the diatoms were scraped off the top of the plate, through the process of subduction. The Pacific and North American plates meet along the San Andreas Fault, and the Pacific plate is drawn under the other.

Some polished surfaces of rocks, called slickensides, are evidence of the tumultuous pressures exerted from plate tectonics. As stress builds up along the plates, it is released periodically, causing the earthquakes that the San Francisco

Bay Area and other regions experience. The San Andreas Fault, called a strike-slip fault, is the convergence of these two plates where the Pacific plate moves north past the North American plate.

While the rocks remain in one position, unless they are moved or eroded, plants grow in among them and animals find shelter or perches on them. In springtime many flowers appear among the rocks, as seen during this spring's

Mammoths, grizzly bears and coyotes traveled through what is now Glen Park.

wildflower walk through the park's paths, hosted by the Friends of Glen Canyon Park. For thousands of years, animals such as deer, elk, mammoths, grizzly bears and coyotes traveled through what is now Glen Park to drink from the creek and feed on grass and plants in the area. Today, through native plant restoration and preservation of the natural area, wild animals, birds and people can enjoy Glen Canyon Park.

Visit the Friends of Glen Canyon Park website, with additional information about the park and activities taking place there, at <http://bit.ly/glencanyonpark>. ■

Monika Lewis writes about our neighborhood canyon.



digging the dirt: news from the garden club

Gardeners in the Glen Park area can grow an overwhelming variety of beautiful plants. The fertile soil combined with cool-to-moderate weather means that with some supplemental water in the dry season we can grow almost anything here that does not require a long, hot summer or a winter freeze.

But there are some plants in particular that are easy to grow, flourish in our gardens and do not require lots of care. I'll write about one or two of these plants for each issue—including the many native plants that thrive in Glen Park.

My current favorites are in the family Euphorbiaceae, sometimes known as spurges. Several varieties in this large family grow well here.

- *Euphorbia characias wulfenii* (Milkwort or Mediterranean spurge). If you love unusual plants, this architectural marvel is for you. I call them my Dr. Seuss plants: wild statements in the garden, sending out four-foot-long, pale green stems covered in neat gray-green leaves, topped with a large, circular burst of chartreuse bracts. Inside the bracts lie tiny red flowers. As the flowers age, odd little pale, furry seed pods appear, which will seed all over your garden if you are lucky. In the garden the tall bright lime flowers nod in the breeze. The plant looks fabulous with grasses, Aeoniums (large succulents), blue Nepeta (Catmint) or any blue-flowering plant. It can be trimmed and cut back at almost any time of year.

- *Euphorbia griffithii* (Great Dieter). A smaller and neater plant, with red stems, dark green foliage tinted with copper and pink-orange blooms. A stunner! The varieties of *Euphorbia griffithii*, although hard to pronounce, are worth looking for as they are usually flamed with red, copper, orange or pink tinges on green or lime stems, leaves, bracts and flowers.

- *Euphorbia amygdaloides* (Purpurea). Divine! Deep red stems and leaves topped with glowing acid-yellow flowers. Changes color with seasons, evergreen in our moderate climate.

- *Euphorbia characias* (Tasmanian Tiger). To die for, mainly because of the variegated leaves—pale green with creamy

white margins. Flower heads are creamy yellow. This Tiger is about three feet high and stands out like a bright light in the garden due to the striking pale colors.

- *Euphorbia characias* (Glacier Blue). Variegated leaves, quieter colors, blue-gray leaves margined with cream and cool blue-gray flowers.

- *Euphorbia myrsinites*. A succulent *Euphorbia*. Lovely thick, waxy green leaves spiral around long, trailing stems. Lime green flowers and lemon-yellow bracts with pink streaks. Best in a container with excellent drainage or in a rockery. Striking and unusual.

These perennial plants tolerate sun and part shade and like some water during our dry season. Water them deeply and infrequently. They thrive in amended clay soil. Heavy clay is common in Glen Park and most plants will do better if you amend the soil with compost and mulch, which eventually creates better drainage. Clay is rich in minerals so there is little need to fertilize!

Watch out for the stinging white sap that will quickly leak out of any cuts or breaks in the plant. Wear gloves and be careful. This is true of all

Euphorbia, including Poinsettias. For the same reason *Euphorbias* are not eaten by gophers, the most recent unwelcome addition to Glen Park gardening life. *Euphorbias* are disease- and pest-free in my garden.

The *Euphorbia* blooms are not flowers but complex structures known as cyathia. The bloom period is officially April–July but in our climate will last longer. The dead flower heads and the stems can be cut back at the base of the plant each year.

Plants can be found at local nurseries such as Flowercraft Garden Center on Bayshore Boulevard, Flora Grubb Gardens on Jerrold Avenue and Three Bees Nursery on Clement Street. They can be ordered from Diggingdog.com, which has a wide selection of *Euphorbias* and more. ■

Kay Hamilton Estey is the Glen Park Garden Club columnist for the Glen Park News. If you have questions, comments, or want to know more about the Garden Club, e-mail her at khestey@mindspring.com.

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Red Hen Community Garden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Tuned in to the sustainable slow food movement, Jang, who frequents the Ferry Building Farmers' Market, didn't grow up on a farm as did Hashimoto. She met her new neighbor at Lowe's when each was purchasing their new gardening tools.

"I'm a city girl and it's wonderful to be able to grow locally," she said, patting topsoil with a new trowel. "It's important that people know where their food comes from."

If Will, Grisl, Hashimoto and Jang are correct about The Little Red Hen Community Garden's salutary impact, it won't be from any lack of effort from two community members: Richard Craib, president of Friends of Glen Canyon Park, and SFPD Sergeant William Murray, raised in Diamond Heights, who has worked in video productions at the Police Academy since October 2010.

"Rich and I put our heads together," said Murray, who plans to oversee a Police Academy garden of oregano, chard and spinach. "We put out some feelers to neighbors, put some signs up, and ran the idea through Rec and Parks." Not to mention the SFPD brass who had to sign off, and all of the back-breaking preparation work it took to ready the patch of real estate that lies adjacent to St. Nicholas Church.

"We all pitched in," said Murray, as he recalled the hours clearing crab grass during the two previous weeks of April's roasting weather, "but Rich was the driving force."

If Craib, a retired building contractor, took the initiative, then his experienced carpenter's hands ably assisted him by power-tooling 800 screws into the environmentally friendly Douglas fir frames. After his Sunday heavy lifting, Craib inspected the results of his efforts, which now looked less like a staging area for the D-Day invasion and more like a *Better Homes and Gardens* cover story.

"I was worn to a frazzle," joked Craib, who has built his home on Turquoise Way 47 years ago and who, with the help of Grisl, constructed the frames in a record-breaking two days. Craib's and Murray's labors were neither unnoticed nor unrecognized.

"I was blown away by all the pre-work that was done and how extremely well the day was organized," said Tina Will, whose five-year-old son, Ben, pushing his toy wheel barrel, hauled weeds and rocks from his family's recently acquired garden, which can use only organic herbicides and can only be watered for 10 minutes a day.

As for Craib, he can almost taste the lemon cucumbers and kale he'll nurture

in his garden through a growing season that spans from March to October: "This land hasn't been used for 50 years. Now, if a harvested crop can't be used by an owner, it can be shared."

Craib won't get an argument from Randall Jensen, his Turquoise Way neighbor, who purchased two plots and is providing seed and plants for the *Si, Se Puede!* Learning Center after-school program at the Vista Del Monte Apartments on Gold Mine Drive. "I wanted to give the kids the opportunity to see the results of what they produce with their hands," said Jensen. "Now the children will grow flowers and vegetables."

"I'm so excited because the kids are so excited," said Vanessa Parra, *Si Se Puede* program coordinator. "We'll take the children to the garden and teach them about horticulture and then they can donate any surplus harvest to St. Aidan's Friday food bank."

Craib and Jensen have a powerful ally at City Hall, Glen Park resident and Mayor Ed Lee. On April 22, Mayor Lee signed legislation that green-lights urban agriculture gardens throughout the city. Lee's signature also rewrote previous zoning laws that prohibited selling home-grown produce without costly permits.

The chief executive's dotted i's and crossed t's won't impact Tina Will, though; her plan to grow strawberries has nothing to do with "value added" homemade mason jars full of jams and jellies. "My strawberries will be eaten as soon as they're picked," she says.

Will, an environmental consultant, views public common space as being just as important as any potential bumper crop. "We live in an area that's hilly and windswept, with steep and small backyards," she explained. "Diamond Heights is designed with no real front yards, so now this flat garden becomes our collective front yard."

In his turn, police officer Murray, who flipped burgers for the tired foodies over a charcoal grill at day's end, sang a similar refrain: "It's like, say, this guy lives in my building and I didn't know him. Now when he goes on vacation I can take care of his garden."

"The garden is sorely needed in this community," said Craib. "Within two weeks we sold all 25 plots. We're envisioning 12 more, and there are already six people on a waiting list." ■

Those interested in learning more about The Little Red Hen Community Garden can contact Richard Craib at 648-0862 or richcraib@gmail.com. For fundraising efforts for the garden, contact William Murray at sfpolicegardent@gmail.com.



Top: Off-duty San Jose firefighters console Frank Valerio, father of San Francisco firefighter Anthony Valerio. Above: San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White has some barbecue with the San Jose firefighters.

Photos by Chris Hardy

Firefighters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

engine when it's parked out front.

Madoka Hokamura and her daughters, Mariko, 9 and Akiko, 7, brought a card the girls had made, and homemade cookies.

"We just briefly talked with the firefighter who came to the door. Another family who had delivered their child's drawing was just leaving as we got there," Hokamura said. "As we were walking out, we saw another man walking in with flowers."

Firefighters from Santa Clara delivered pizza to all of San Francisco's fire stations the day after the fire. The day after that they were back at Station 26 hosting a barbecue. Hayes-White visited the station, as did the victims' families and close friends. The Station 26 crew set up a heart-tugging memorial, laying out the gear used by Perez and Valerio.

On June 6, Station 26 hosted a well-attended community gathering and BBQ. Neighbors showed up to offer their condolences and firefighters stationed there took the opportunity to say thanks for the outpouring of support they received in the wake of the tragedy.

Several homes near the station flew

American flags in tribute to the victims. "These two men have dedicated their lives to protecting the people of San Francisco for decades," said Mayor Ed Lee, a Glen Park resident. "This is a terrible tragedy for our city and it is a reminder to all of us of the sacrifice that firefighters make along with their families and friends."

The fire was apparently sparked by an electrical outlet, setting curtains on fire, *The San Francisco Chronicle* reported. A woman, three children and a dog who were in the home escaped unharmed, but about 20 minutes after the first firefighters arrived, a blast of superheated gases ignited in a room where Perez and Valerio were fighting the fire.

Hayes-White said the incident is under investigation.

San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798 has established trust accounts at the San Francisco Fire Credit Union for the families of Lt. Vincent Perez and firefighter/paramedic Anthony Valerio. Donations can be made to SFFCU, 3201 California St., San Francisco, CA 94118.

Condolence messages may be hand-delivered or mailed to Fire Station 26, Digby St., San Francisco CA 94131. ■

glen park real estate

As you can see, there have been 16 transactions since mid-February and, based on the days on market, list price and sales price, we can see that properties (with the exception of a few) are staying on the market a little longer.

by Half sold under the list price
Bill (but not that much, which
Berry means that values are holding pretty well) and five sold over asking—congratulations Sellers!

So those are the Glen Park Real Estate statistics. But another important factor is the economy and interest rates. I'm going to call this topic, "Is the glass half empty or half full?" That question is one many people are debating when it comes to real estate and the economy, which is still sluggish. But the slow recovery has helped home loan rates improve. So what has recently developed? And what was the impact on home loan rates? Let's take a deeper look.

First, on the inflation front: 6.8 percent. That's the current year-over-year rate of producer or wholesale inflation. And that is hot—very hot! And while producer or wholesale inflation doesn't always get passed on to the consumer as evidenced by the relatively benign Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation readings, at some point one of two things must happen.

- Businesses that are burdened with

increased costs must pass the increase to the consumer by raising prices, thus boosting consumer inflation.

- If businesses aren't in a position to raise prices because of weak consumer demand, they must absorb the increased costs, thereby lowering earnings and the ability to expand and furthering the present slow economic growth.

The takeaway here: One of the Fed's goals for its second round of Quantitative Easing (QE2) was to create inflation and avoid deflation in the hopes of strengthening our economic recovery. It appears that it has been somewhat successful in this goal, as the risks for deflation have somewhat abated. But remember, inflation is the archenemy of bonds and home loan rates. If inflation continues to heat up, this could hinder further improvement in home loan rates.

The bottom line is that, on the glass-half-full side of things, home loan rates still remain near some of the best levels we've seen this year. So if you have been thinking about purchasing or refinancing a home, consider this your opportunity! ■

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Community Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

scale neighborhood commercial district (NC-2), to a new Glen Park Neighborhood Commercial Transit District (NCT). Other NCTs in the city are Market/Octavia, Central Waterfront, and Balboa Park Station.

Rezoning would allow modifications to density, heights, setbacks and building facades. Height limit would go from 40 to 45 feet, which would not be enough for an additional floor, but would allow space for more active ground floor uses and pedestrian access. Also, curb cuts would be minimized to increase parking availability.

Transportation is perhaps the biggest, most complex issue in Glen Park, and has many facets—pedestrian safety, traffic calming, bicycle networks and transit improvements. Suggested solutions include a speed table (like an elongated speed bump) on Bosworth Street; and lane narrowing east of Arlington Street, with two new crosswalks with warning lights. The Monterey/Joost and Arlington/Wilder Street intersections could have pedestrian bulbouts, which extend the sidewalk corner at the intersection. Bulbouts shorten the distance across the intersection, make pedestrians more visible and slow down traffic.

The Bosworth/Diamond intersection is undoubtedly the most problematic in the neighborhood. Here, traffic signals could be modified and the road restriped. The intersection could have a "scramble phase," in which all vehicular traffic would be stopped for pedestrian crossing in all directions at one time, including diagonally.

Transit accessibility could be improved by connectivity between the Muni Metro J Church platform and the BART station, via a new pedestrian bridge or an at-grade ramp. Access to BART could be enhanced with a bus loop and BART concourse entry, or by moving the Muni transit stop of the inbound 23 bus to Bosworth Street.

Open space is a third major area covered in the EIR. The report suggests a greenway link between downtown Glen Park and Glen Canyon, and the potential for daylighting a portion of

Islais Creek into an aboveground channel. Another possibility is to turn the one-block-long Kern Street into a public space with special pavement, street trees and an entrance to the greenway.

For each possible change, the EIR rates its environmental effects and proposes measures that could mitigate any negative impacts. There are several areas in which, even after such mitigating steps

were taken, significant negative impacts would remain. A couple of examples: The "scramble phase" would significantly impact traffic flow at the Diamond/Bosworth intersection. Construction activity at the improvement sites would

temporarily increase emissions and other air pollutants.

The Bosworth/Diamond intersection is undoubtedly the most problematic in the neighborhood. Here, traffic signals could be modified and the road restriped.

Where does this leave us?

There are two alternatives to the many possible improvements described in the EIR. One is retaining transportation and open space improvements but reducing development of residential and commercial space.

The other alternative is—Nothing! Or, as the authors call it, the "No Project Alternative."

This doesn't mean there would be no future development—new projects would continue to go through the same approval process as always. But there would be no overall community plan to which new developments would need to conform.

The full report is available at the Glen Park Library. Or, if you love high-impact scrolling you can download it by clicking the link at <http://sfmta.com/cms/oglen/glenindx.htm>. ■

Homes sold between Feb. 11 and May 15

Address	Listed	Sold	Days on the Market
Single Family			
2330 Diamond St.	\$1,295,000	\$1,270,000	41
104 Laidley St.	\$959,000	\$975,000	28
334 Laidley St.	\$995,000	\$985,000	40
182 Lippard Ave.	\$799,000	\$812,000	13
27 Malta Dr.	\$925,000	\$875,000	127
19 Mizpah St.	\$689,000	\$699,000	28
43 Nordhoff St.	\$1,095,000	\$1,100,000	27
26 Roanoke St.	\$1,195,000	\$1,183,500	8
1709 Sanchez St.	\$1,099,000	\$1,099,000	26
5 Surrey St.	\$599,000	\$641,000	35
15 Surrey St.	\$599,950	\$540,000	42
40 Sussex St.	\$1,089,000	\$1,064,000	59
91 Whitney St.	\$600,000	\$575,000	8
Condominiums			
1866 Church St.	\$1,499,000	\$1,425,000	68
34 Natick St.	\$649,000	\$621,000	61
2-4 Units			
254 -256 Arlington St.	\$799,000	\$855,000	166

Recycle Mercury-Laden Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Fluorescent light bulbs may be "environmentally friendly" but you can't put them in your blue curbside bin. Now, rather than throw them in the trash you can keep them green by recycling them at Canyon Market, 2815 Diamond St. The market is participating in a pilot project run by the City's Department of Environment to increase recycling of fluorescent lights and other hazardous waste.

Drummer Builds a Bridge Between Books and Films

Jimmy Ryan, the popular jazz drummer whose quintet plays one Friday night each month at Bird & Beckett Books & Records on Chenery Street, packed his sticks on Thursday, May 19 and traveled a few miles from his usual Glen Park gig. Sitting at his drum set in the Richmond District's Balboa Theatre, he tapped a hip rendition of "Beatrice," in a rare—but not unprecedented—San Francisco inter-neighborhood cultural exchange.

Billed as a melding of America's two indigenous art forms, Ryan's Balboa Be Bob Band's first set featured jazz classics such as "My Shining Hour." Then the audience was treated to the 1959 film *Jazz on a Summer's Day*, the iconic 1958 Newport Jazz Festival documentary.

In what he hopes will not be his only departure from his usual standing-room-

only Bird & Beckett billing, Ryan, 72, envisions a movie theater as another venue in which to play and hear jazz. The musician was born in Los Angeles and was exposed to jazz bands and musicians during the 1940s and 1950s. "Movies were a baby sitter for me, especially the MGM musicals," reminisced Ryan. "At 13 my cousin Donna Jean introduced me to jazz and from the first note it was a love that has lasted all this time."

Ryan shared this thought with an audience of 150 jazz aficionados, a larger-than-usual Thursday evening Balboa crowd, eager to embrace Ryan's jazz and film syncopation.

"I remember going to movies in L.A. and seeing bands," the drummer said before introducing his own quartet, comprising N.J. Jaramillo, Evan Francis, Attila Medveczky, and his son Joel Ryan on trumpet. "If I was supposed to play



Bird & Beckett favorite Jimmy Ryan makes music with a movie at the Balboa.

Photo by Bonnie Mills

jazz, I wanted it to be in a theater."

Smiling at his son, he added with a grin, "Joel heard jazz in the womb, and later we always had KJAZ playing."

Acoustic sentiments such as this do not fall on deaf ears when it comes to Balboa Theatre owner, Gary Meyer.

"We hope that by breaking the rules and the people's expectations of what a movie theater does and where live music performs," said Meyer, "we can get attention and an audience looking for something different."

Roger Paul, the Balboa's general manager, holds a degree in film and spent his earlier years managing the Red Vic Theater. He echoed his boss: "The entire industry is convulsing. The Richmond District used to have huge swaths of neighborhood theaters. Now, to stay on the radar, we partner with bookstores such as City Lights, where we recently highlighted Barry Gifford's novels."

Such a take doesn't escape the notice of Eric Whittington, owner of Bird & Beckett. "Gary is trying to create a hub, a place where something special happens," said Whittington, who partnered with Meyer last March, collaborating on a Bird & Beckett-Balboa Theatre viewing-and-book event that featured the 1980 documentary, *Philip Guston: A Life Lived*. The Balboa Theatre is labeled an "art house," and Meyer's 309-seat theater didn't have an empty seat for the March event.

After Ryan's first set in May, Molly Christie, who lives on 43rd Avenue, stood beneath the Balboa marquee. "I love the Balboa and my neighborhood," she said. "Local theaters and bookstores are significant because they bring us together, and it's important we preserve them and do not allow them to become forgotten."

Roger Paul chimed in: "You won't ever see Jimmy performing at a boxy multiplex!"

Surveying the audience's conversa-

tion at intermission, Whittington had his thoughts: "In most jazz clubs, people are in and out. Jimmy's thing is playing music where people can gather and where they can check in with one another and enjoy a shared experience."

Jazz singer Dorothy Lefkovits, a favorite at Bird & Beckett who performs with Ryan's Chenery Street band, embodies jazz styling and believes it need not be confined to smoke-filled clubs such as The Lighthouse in Hermosa Beach, where Ryan cut his teeth listening to Shelly Manne. "Anywhere you present jazz," Lefkovits said, "it's fun."

Tina Marzell, another chanteuse in Whittington's Bird & Beckett repertory company, served up her own vocals: "Any time you can bring jazz out of its stereotypical settings, it's great." Besides, she added, "any art form where you can enjoy popcorn is a good thing."

"It's easy to find a common denominator among literature, music and film," said Whittington, surrounded by music and movie lovers in the brick-and-mortar movie theater constructed in 1926. "What Gary is doing here is creating a loyal base that will return again and again."

How about Jimmy Ryan? What are his impressions of his Richmond District debut, after long enjoying the warmth of Bird & Beckett? "Performing at Bird & Beckett is like playing in your living room in front of family and friends," said the diminutive drummer, "but the Balboa went beyond my wildest expectations."

Said Ryan's wife, Rory, "It was thrilling to see so many people come out on a week night and support Jimmy and jazz. We were all part of what may well be remembered as a historic event in San Francisco."

Added Meyer: "We'll bring Jimmy back. There are many more great jazz movies to include him with."

Nibbling a freshly popped kernel, Marzell smiled: "You can't get this at Yoshi's!" ■

check it out at the library

With summer upon us once again, it is time for our annual Summer Reading Program, which this year is called, "Power Your Mind: READ!" The program runs from June 1 to July 30.

This year we have some changes. The first: Now there's just one program for all ages, birth to 100 (or older). Second: You can do (almost) everything online—from enrolling to logging your time to writing book reviews.

The reading program is organized into three age groups: children from birth to 12 years; teens from 13 to 18 years; and adults 18 years and older. Children who read for 10 hours can win a hula hoop, kite, book or choose a pass from a local attraction. Teens who read for 30 hours will win a backpack, and adults who read for 40 hours will win a library card holder. Everyone who reads for 40 hours will automatically be entered into a drawing for their age group. Two winners each will be chosen from the children and the adult categories, where the prize choices are a new Kindle e-reader or a family membership to a Bay Area museum or attraction. Two lucky teens will win an iPad2 or a Sports Basement gift certificate.

To sign up, you can either go online or go into your local public library. You will need to show up in person to claim your grand prizes. Staff will be happy to help you with the online procedures or, if you prefer, to give you a paper registra-

tion form and reading log. The online site will be available in English and Spanish. We will have paper materials in those languages plus Chinese, Russian, Vietnamese and Japanese.

Starting July 1, the San Francisco Public Library goes green with our library notices. We will be eliminating the printed notices that are mailed to library users for reserved and overdue materials. If you are currently receiving paper notices, your options are to change to e-mail, telephone or text message. Please contact your local branch to help you make the change.

Information about Glen Park Branch Library events this summer is in the Community Calendar on Page 24 of this issue. To find out more about our programs and other library news, please visit our Glen Park Library Blog at <http://glenparklibrariesfpl.blogspot.com>. You can sign up for the Summer Reading Program at <http://sfpl.org/summerreading>. The Library website is <http://sfpl.org>. ■

Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond Street (near Bosworth)

Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-6
Wednesday 12-8
Thursday 1-7
Friday 1-6
Saturday 1-6
Sunday – Closed

Denise Sanderson is the Glen Park Branch Librarian.

community calendar

Glen Park Association

Quarterly meetings are held in January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Annual dues of just \$10 support the Association's important work on behalf of the neighborhood.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m., Sunnyside Conservatory, 236 Monterey Blvd.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

The Friends sponsor a variety of activities to maintain and improve our neighborhood park and enhance our knowledge and enjoyment of the city's natural wonderland. To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park or learn more about their activities, contact Richard Craib at 648-0862 or richcraib@gmail.com, or call Jean Conner at 584-8576.

Scheduled events and educational walks in the canyon will resume in the fall. Meantime, volunteers are invited to participate in these activities:

Meetings and Plant Restoration Work Parties: Third Saturday of each month, 9 am–noon. **Next dates:** June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17. Meet behind the Recreation Center. Tools, gloves and instruction are provided.

Weekly Work Parties: Every Wednesday, 9 am–noon. For the current week's meeting place contact Richard Craib, 648-0862.

Congress on Your Corner

Friday, July 8, 2–5 pm, Glen Park Branch Library, 2825 Diamond St. This program of "community office hours," presented by the S.F. Public Library, will bring Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's staff to Glen Park to answer questions about federal agencies, programs and benefits, and to offer constituents "any possible assistance."

Glen Park Farmers' Market

Every Sunday, 10 am–2 pm, BART Parking Lot, Bosworth & Arlington streets. Seasonal, May through Oct. 16.

SFPD Community Forums

Third Tuesday of every month, 7–8 pm, at Ingleside Police Station, John V. Young Way off San Jose Avenue. For details call the station at 404-4000, or visit the website InglesidePoliceStation.com.

All residents are encouraged to participate in these informative monthly Community Relations Forums hosted by Capt. Louis Cassanego, Ingleside Station's commanding officer. Keep up to date on neighborhood police issues, get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe.

Next dates: June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sep. 20.

Glen Park Branch Library

Denise Sanderson, manager of the Glen Park Branch at 2825 Diamond St., oversees a lively agenda of events at our local library. See her column on Page 22 for more details. A full schedule is always available at the library, and all programs are free.

Following are a few of the events planned this spring:

Children's Programs

Baby Rhymes & Playtime: Every Tuesday, 10:30 am. Rhymes, stories and fingerplays, ages birth–3 years.

Preschool Videos: Monday, July 11, 10:30 am. Ages 3–5.

Friday, June 17, 4 pm: Gerald the Magician, for children of all ages

Saturday, June 18, 2 pm: Hula Hooping with Cherry Hoops, ages 6 and up, registration is required.

Tuesday, June 21, 10:30 am: Erica Sodas, magic, for children of all ages.

Friday, July 1, 3 pm: Mud, Dirt, Sand and Clay, ages 5 and up, registration is required.

Wednesday, July 6, 4 pm: Puppet Company Presents Peter and the Wolf, for children of all ages.

Tuesday July 12, 10:30 am: Te Canto, Songs in Spanish and English, for children of all ages.

Thursday, July 21, 1 pm: Mad Science Magnetic Magic, ages 5 and up, registration is required.

Teen Programs (Ages 12–18)

Thursday, June 16, 3 pm: Teen Book Swap.

Friday, June 24, 4 pm: Teen Gaming.

Thursday, July 7, 3:30 pm: Lucha Libre Felt Buttons.

Adult Programs

Wednesday, June 22, 6:30 pm: Jazz, Jail and God, Poetry by Mel Clay.

Friday, July 8, 2 pm: Congress on your Corner, with staff of U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

Tuesday, July 12, 4 pm: Intro to e-mail.

Wednesday, July 27, 6:30 pm: e-Reader Training.

Glen Park School

Saturday, Aug. 27: Grand Reopening Open House, celebrating the newly refurbished school's history and future.

Sunnyside School

Thursday, Aug. 11: Kindergarten Welcome Night. Student assignments will be announced at 5:30 and 6:15 pm and

teachers will meet parents. School starts Monday, Aug. 15.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

Sunday, July 17, 10 am–3 pm, Circular Avenue between Congo and Flood streets: Dedication celebration for Circular Avenue Ribbon Park, with entertainment, kids' activities, hot dogs and (hopefully) City officials.

Saturday, Aug. 13, Sunnyside neighborhood-wide Garage Sale. Info: katemason24@gmail.com.

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

St. Aidan's, 101 Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard, offers a variety of programs that may be of interest to their Glen Park neighbors. For information, please contact the church at 285-9540.

Food Pantry: Every Friday, 1–2:30 pm, for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 ZIP code.

Imperial Pancake Breakfast: Saturday, June 18, 9 am–noon, \$15. A benefit for the Food Pantry and Visual Aid, this sure-to-be-memorable meal includes bottomless mimosas and will be prepared and—dare we say, dished out—by San Francisco's Empress Saybeline and her royal court.

Bird & Beckett Events

Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 653 Chenery St., presents literary and musical events under the auspices of the nonprofit Bird & Beckett Cultural Legacy Project. Admission is free, but requested donations make the series possible, and your purchases are vital to keep the book store open. Tax-deductible contributions to the Cultural Legacy Project help keep cultural programming alive in Glen Park.

Check online for the latest information at birdbeckett.com, pick up a monthly events schedule at the bookshop, or call proprietor Eric Whittington at 586-3733. Shop hours are 11 am–8 pm Monday–Thursday, 10 am–9 pm Friday–Saturday, 10 am–7 pm Sunday.

Special Events:

Sun. July 3, 3 pm: Intermedia Spoken Word Performance – Poet Nicholas Karavatos with guitarist Jeff Kelley.

Sun. July 10, 2 pm: *Ten Years that Shook the City: San Francisco 1968-1978* editors Chris Carlsson and Lisaruth Elliott present several contributors to their new collection of essays.

Sun. July 17, 3 pm: *The Comfort Garden: Tales from the Trauma Unit* – Laborfest.

Sun. July 24, 2:30 pm: Roads of

Bread: A commemoration of SF poet Eugene Ruggles.

Sun. Aug. 7, 2 pm: This PAWA (Philippine-American Writers & Artists) reading is hosted by poet Barbara Jane Reyes.

Sun. Aug. 14, 2:30 pm: Laura Sheppard brings the world of Gertrude Stein to life in a one-woman show based on the new memoir by Harriet Levy, *Paris Portraits: Stories of Picasso, Matisse, Gertrude Stein and their Circle*.

Weekly & Monthly Series:

☞ Three **book groups** meet monthly, at 7 pm – call store for title(s)

Bird & Beckett Book Club: 1st Wednesdays

Political Book Discussion Group: 2nd Thursdays

Eminent Authors' Birthdays Open Reading: 4th Thursdays

🎷 **Live Jazz in the Bookshop:** A neighborhood party every Friday, 5:30–8 pm.

1st Friday of the month: Don Prell's SeaBop Ensemble.

2nd Fridays: The Jimmy Ryan Quintet.

3rd Fridays: The Chuck Peterson/Scott Foster/Don Prell/Ron Marabuto Quartet.

4th Fridays: The Chuck Peterson Quintet.

5th Fridays: Guest jazz groups – in July, it's the George Cotsirilos Trio.

🎷 **Which Way West?:** Every Sunday, 4:30–6:30 pm. This concert series features Americana roots bands, jazz groups, world music performers, classical music and more. All ages welcome.

June 19: Husain Resan Ensemble—music of Iraq & the greater Middle East.

June 26: Jim Grantham Band—jazz.

July 3: Buena Vista Jazz—trad jazz quintet.

July 10: Sukhawat Ali Khan Ensemble—Sufi music from Pakistan.

July 17: to be announced.

July 24: Suzanne Kramer Quartet—jazz.

July 31: Time Is Now, Not Money—OUTFEST—five-weeks of free jazz concerts.

☞ **Poetry with Open Mic:** 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7–9 pm. Troubadour/Bard Jerry Ferraz hosts two featured readers and an open mic. (No Reading on July 4.)

June 20: Jorge Argueta & Miguel Robles.

July 18: Michael Koch & Willie Lizarraga.

August 15: Paula Hackett with pianist Connie Crothers.

☞ **Literary Talks:** Last Sundays at 2:30 pm (Sept. to June) – Walker Brents III addresses literary, mythological and philosophical topics. ■