

Glen Canyon Park Plan Moves Forward

Picture Glen Canyon Park with a new playground and tennis courts, an accessible trail leading directly into the canyon, a new plaza and native plants garden, and repaired Recreation Center bathrooms, roof and heating system. Those are elements of the Glen Canyon Park Improvement Plan, a conceptual plan to improve the park that won key approvals by the Recreation and Park Commission and Board of Supervisors this summer.

The nonprofit Trust for Public Land, which crafted the proposal with help from City officials, neighbors and advocacy groups, received the mayoral-appointed commission's OK of the plan in August.

Now the design team is working on a more detailed plan to be presented to Glen Park this fall. Among the outstanding issues that must be resolved:

- The size of the playground and the materials to be used to build it. Parents want to make sure that the equipment is free of toxins.
- Proposed removal of the eucalyptus trees on the hill above the present tennis courts. A vocal group of neighbors hopes to save the trees, and they have posted notices on the trees decrying their possible loss; one person has threatened to chain herself to the jeopardized trees



The Glen Canyon Park tennis courts, with eucalyptus trees beyond. A proposed redesign of the park would move the tennis courts and require the cutting of the trees, a move ardently opposed by some.

Photo by Elizabeth Weise

should the chainsaws be fired up.

- Whether improved access between the top of the park and the School of the Arts campus can be created.

The project, titled "The Glen Canyon Park Improvement Plan," calls for retaining the park's three major trails—along both sides of the creek and on the

hillside—with connectors that make sense. A handicapped-accessible trail loop would be created along Alms Road (the dirt road that starts above the tennis courts) and then back along the west side of the creek. The accessible trail would not extend into the more wild areas of the canyon. Steep drop-offs above the creek would be stabilized.

Park access will be improved, but the rustic aspect will remain. There also are proposals to improve pedestrian access to the park from Elk Street.

The final design, construction drawings, bids and contract awards are expected by winter 2011 and spring 2012, with construction expected to commence soon after. Meanwhile, fund-raising will begin, to help pay for the ambitious makeover of the park.

The project already has \$6.7 million committed—\$5.8 million from the

Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond approved by voters in 2008, and \$900,000 set aside by the City for trail improvements. But that falls far short of the estimated \$22 million price tag to fund everything on the wish list that was developed as a result of feedback during nine community meetings, eight focus groups and hundreds of written submissions from dedicated park users and advocates during the past three years.

"The intent of this plan is not only to guide short- and long-term improvements to the park, but also to serve as a fund-raising tool," said Trudy Garber, a representative of Trust for Public Land.

Now the challenge will be to prioritize the so-called Phase One improvement projects that got the go-ahead from the Recreation and Park Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Glen Park Association Meeting Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Glen Park Recreation Center
Elk and Chenery Streets
(past the tennis courts)

Hear representatives of both November Pension Reform Propositions.
Glen Canyon Park Improvement Plan update.
SF Solar Reimbursement Program.

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Glen Park News

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Glen Park Business Roundup

Glen Park’s business district has stretched around the corner with the advent of Cup, the latest addition to the caffeination of our neighborhood.

by Gail Bensinger The new coffee house, located at 6 Monterey Blvd., draws much of its daytime clientele from up the hill along Monterey and Joost, says Kamal Naser, Cup’s owner. The menu of coffee drinks, tea and pastries is familiar, but Cup expands Glen Park’s open mic opportunities beyond the Monday poetry sessions offered by Bird & Beckett (Community Calendar, Page 20).

So far there’s no set schedule, but once or twice a month the Workshop SE, the house band, plays. Everyone is invited to add their own contributions—music, stand-up comedy, percussionists, young teens with guitars—a trend Naser notes approvingly. “There are a lot of kids in the neighborhood who don’t have an outlet in the area,” he says. And, yes, poets too.

With his brother, Eddie, Naser owns the three Toast eateries—they seem to have a knack for basic names—but this is their first coffee-only place. The décor is stylish, and the friendly chief barista is Naser’s cousin, Freddie Nazzal, who came out of retirement to lend a hand.

At the other end of our business district, the East-West Integrative Medicine Clinic is expanding into the next-door space vacated by the Kiki-Yo yoga and Pilates studio. According to Marnie McCurdy, East-West’s owner, their current premises at 605 Chenery St. are “a little bit cramped.”

While current zoning rules prohibit opening the wall between the two storefronts, McCurdy says the extra space will allow the clinic to offer additional services, including a physical therapist and a psychotherapist. The initial offerings of acupuncture, message, nutrition and herbal medicine will be augmented by “more of the same and a little bit different,” she says.

Other business changes have come to our shopping district. Eggettes has rebranded itself as Rock-It Swirl, as the owners ended their franchise with the local chain of its former name. The new emphasis is on house-made yogurts and Gelato Classico ice cream as well as the familiar bubble drinks and smoothies.

And one familiar face has left the neighborhood. After 15 years, Nate Greenberg has left his job at Critter Fritters to open Fog City Pet Supplies, at

1625 Palmetto Ave. in Pacifica. He says he specializes in healthy and organic food for animals, joking, “The only thing I don’t have is little frou-frou sweaters.”

Critter Fritters owner Barry Leonard

is back behind the counter on Chenery Street. He has had as many as five stores around the Bay Area, but the Glen Park pet emporium was “my first store, and it’s still my favorite,” he says. ■

Farmers’ Market is Extended Through Thanksgiving Week

The weekly Glen Park Farmers’ Market has been a total success. Each Sunday throngs of Glen Park residents can be seen walking to the market and then strolling home again laden with all manner of fresh fruits, produce, meat, cheeses and baked goods.

So much so that the seasonal market, originally scheduled to end the Sunday before Halloween, will now stay open until the Sunday before Thanksgiving, allowing all of us to plan our holiday dinners around the bounty available locally.

A partnership of the Glen Park Merchants’ Association, BART and the Pacific Coast Farmers’ Market Association, the market hosts more than 15 farmers and producers each week at the BART parking lot on Bosworth Street at Arlington.

The farmers’ market, which launched on May 15, is open every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Farmers come from no further than 150 miles away to sell produce and other items. According to the market manager, it’s been getting about 1,200 customers a week. And as San Francisco’s mayoral race heats up, it’s becoming a weekly rallying point for supporters of various candidates.

Plans for the market’s 2012 reopening will be announced as Spring approaches.

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.

GPA Board of Directors and Officers for 2011

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glen park association news

My family moved to Glen Park in September, 1986 and this Labor Day weekend marked our 25th year on Sussex Street. We also celebrated this month when our masonry contractor finished up what started as a minor waterproofing fix around our windows and ended as a lesson on maintenance of a brick house. When the scaffold and netting came down, all the mortar had been repointed, steel lintels were replaced over the windows, and pins were inserted and hidden to hold some really wobbly brick together.

Our contractor told us that brick walls need this kind of work every 50 years, but we made it to the house's 80th year. We are proud of upgrading this distinctive house, and keeping the original design in place.

Not to mention seismic-safety benefits.

Neighborhoods are like old houses. We want to keep the feel and look of our Glen Park, but after a while, things need upgrading. The flyers, postings, e-mails, workshops, and meetings around the Glen Canyon Park Trails Plan, the Glen Canyon Park Recreation Center Plans and the Glen Park Community Plan brought out a cross-section of people from the neighborhood and beyond with comments, questions, concerns and disagreements.

The park plans have moved ahead from workshops and field trips to conceptual approval by the Recreation and Park Commission. Those plans, in the opinion of the Glen Park Association board of directors, carefully balance open space and recreation values of the canyon, and

will bring the park up to current needs, consistent with the original values. This will be the first major Glen Canyon Park upgrade in, yes, about 75 years.

The Glen Park Community Plan also has evolved through the public process, and will be ready for review and approval at the Planning Commission in October. Among many other possibilities for neighborhood input, the Glen Park Association sponsored several Community Plan workshops at the Glen Park library. The proposed zoning amendments recognize the character and scale of "downtown" Glen Park. The plan also has major ideas for the Diamond/Bosworth intersection to help pedestrians, BART and bus passengers, and car movements. These will be the first major improvements around the BART station in almost 40 years. The

Glen Park Association board of directors commented on the draft plan and we made specific recommendations on design guidelines and traffic and open space improvements along Bosworth Street.

We also know that these plan approvals are only one step. The neighborhood will need to be very involved in making sure funding is available to complete the park plans, through new bond measures and other sources. The improvements around the BART station have seed money, but City officials will need to hear from us to keep funds flowing.

These plans for Glen Park will maintain our distinctiveness, but will make the "upkeep" easier. ■

Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association

from the editors

The *Glen Park News* is published four times a year, put together by an all-volunteer staff of reporters, columnists, editors, photographers, an advertising rep, a delivery crew and a layout guru.

Soon after the finished product hits residents' doorsteps, we start preparing for the next issue.

E-mails go back and forth among the editors about upcoming events and ongoing issues in the neighborhood that we should cover. Our regular contributors also come up with their own ideas. Eventually the list comes together—stories and photos are assigned and deadlines are set. We check on ad sales to see how many pages

we'll be able to afford to publish, and then we get down to business. A few weeks before publication, we start getting the copy to edit.

And then the magic happens.

All the edited copy, photos and ads are sent electronically to our design editor, Mary Mottola. Her job: Make everything fit—and make it look good. No easy task. But it's a challenge Mary has met with enthusiasm and patience. Unfortunately for us, Mary has decided to move on, needing to devote more time to her career.

Help Wanted

The first thing we want to do is thank Mary for her five years of dedication to the *Glen Park News*, for giving generously

of her time, and for her creativity, manifested in our attractive, professionally redesigned newspaper.

The second thing we want to do is ask whether any of you are interested in taking over as our layout editor, or if you know anyone who might be.

Working on the paper is a great way to get involved in the community in a hyper-local way. Mary has developed an excellent working template, using InDesign software, so whoever takes over won't have to start from scratch. But there's also plenty of room for the next designer to work on changes, to put his or her mark—with consensus of the other editors—on the

look of the paper.

We're especially looking forward to highlighting the excellent photographs our Glen Park News photographers are taking these days. If you've got ideas about new designs, we'd love to hear them.

We can't offer any money, but we can offer a chance to get involved in the neighborhood, to help work on a project from start to finish (until the next issue, when you'll work from start to finish all over again), to put your computer and design skills to use and to stretch your imagination.

If you're interested, please contact Editor Beth Weise at weise@well.com.

Thank You, Grace

We also want to send a big thank you to another of our devoted volunteers who

is moving on. Grace Clark, who oversaw our delivery team—a job that involved moving lots and lots of papers, many by hand-cart—has moved with her family to the Peninsula.


Her ability to organize the routes and round up volunteers to hand-deliver the *Glen Park News* on their blocks has


been very much appreciated and will be missed. Grace is working with a volunteer to take over her distribution director duties beginning with this issue. ■

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New Top Cop Debuts and News from City Hall Top Packed Agenda at Neighborhood Forum

The summer meeting of the GPA on July 13 was billed as a dessert social, and most folks brought goodies to share. Another special feature was its location—the Sunnyside Conservatory—where residents

could marvel at their surroundings as they participated in a jam-packed agenda. Sally Ross of

Friends of Sunnyside Conservatory gave an historical summation of the property, its decay and rebirth over the years. More information about the venue can be found at www.sunnyside-conservatory.org.

Michael Rice, president of the Glen Park Association, announced that \$500 had been raised for the families of firefighters Vincent Perez and Anthony Valerio, and the GPA would be matching that amount. Firefighters Union Local 798 is administering the fund.

Ingleside Station Update

For many, the meeting was their first chance to meet our new Ingleside police captain, Daniel Mahoney, after our previous captain, Louis Cassenego, moved to the SFPD's Forensic Services. Citing the fact that our precinct has had three chiefs in two years, Mahoney acknowledged the community's frustration: "I get it," he said. He attributed the turnover in part to changes in the department's top command, which led to changes in the district commands.

Mahoney's background includes stints at internal affairs, the legal division, professional standards, media and community relations, and risk management. Also, he was the other finalist for the City's police chief job, which went to Greg Suhr.

He's pleased with the job Mayor Lee is doing, and says Lee is taking the department in the right direction, especially with his support of community policing.

Regarding crime in Glen Park, Mahoney listed several challenges. Lock picks and attempted burglaries are on the rise. There's also been an uptick in robberies. The BART station is one of two major trouble spots in the Ingleside district, the other being the Sunnydale housing. Lone people exiting the station and walking on local streets, such as Chenery and Thor, have been targeted by thieves driving around looking to steal iPods and iPads, cell phones and laptops. White headphones, with their

high visibility, make pedestrians particularly vulnerable.

As an example of poetic justice, Capt. Mahoney told of a person who was robbed of his iPhone on Mission Street. The phone had a free Mobile Me app on it, so the police officer used his own phone to log onto the app, and located the suspect whose "pocket" sounded in response. The best advice: if you have a smart phone, add a GPS system that you can log onto.

Our district covers 6.5 square miles and is very transitory, Mahoney said. The police are trying to focus their efforts on the major arteries leading to Diamond Heights and Sunnydale. They are increasing their visible patrols in Glen Park early in the day, at 8 a.m. or so, adding plainclothes patrols at midday and using decoy operations.

Emergency phone calls are another important item Capt. Mahoney mentioned: Dialing 911 on a land line routes your call directly to San Francisco dispatch on Turk Street and displays your name and address. But a cell phone call to 911 goes to the CHP in Vallejo, which transfers it to San Francisco dispatch, which displays the cell phone number but not your location. To use a cell phone in an emergency call the local number 553-8090, which routes the call directly to San Francisco dispatch.

To contact Capt. Mahoney at Ingleside Station, call 404-4030 or e-mail daniel.j.mahoney@sfgov.org.

News From our Supervisors

Our District 8 Supervisor, Scott Wiener, brought us up to date on his activities. To name a few that have particular neighborhood interest:

- Half of the City's proposed \$6 million cut in tree maintenance has been restored. The original proposal was to shift the entire cost over to property owners. Wiener said he is working on getting a sustainable funding stream for this vital service, which impacts public safety in terms of falling trees and sidewalk damage.

- A class has been added at the Police Academy on Diamond Heights, for the first time in several years. The force has declined from 2,000 to 1,900 officers and may get as low as 1,300, so new recruits are essential.

- Wiener is also looking into regulations for commercial dog walkers using City parks: "The bad ones give the good ones a bad name," he said.



Dist. 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener (rt.), Glen Park Association President Michael Rice, Karen Mauney-Brodek of Rec and Park, and Alejandra Chiesa, of the Trust for Public Land.
Photo by Michael Waldstein

- He also talked about the AT&T Uverse proposal and the utility box issue, which would impact our sidewalks.

You can contact Wiener at scott.wiener@sfgov.org, or 554-6968.

District 7 Supervisor Sean Elsbernd also addressed the meeting. His district includes a small part of Glen Park and Sunnyside. He spoke about one of his signature projects, the pension-reform charter amendment that will go to voters in November. He is also shepherding the redevelopment of ParkMerced, which would entail demolishing 3,200 of the low-story units and building 30,000 new ones over the next 20–25 years.

Glen Park Improvement Plans

Residents then received updates on the two major projects for improvements in Glen Park. Jon Swae and John Billovitz of the Planning Department summarized where we stand in the development of the Glen Park Community Plan.

Karen Mauney-Brodek of Rec and Park and Alejandra Chiesa of the Trust for Public Land presented the Glen Canyon Park Improvement Plan update. The Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks bond of 2008 provided \$5.8 million in funding for Phase 1 improvements in the active recreational areas of the park, plus \$900,000 for trails improvements.

Based on numerous community meetings, focus groups and written comments, a consensus was reached about how the funds should be allocated: The play area will be expanded. New tennis courts will be built in a different location.

A welcoming entryway to the park will be built, and the Elk Street entrance will be made more user friendly. Basic amenities in the Rec Center will be improved, including restrooms and ADA accessible entrances. The foundation of the gym will get minor improvements.

Future projects that will need to be funded over time—through bonds, grants and other methods—are the major renovation of the Rec Center, improvements in athletic fields, and the addition of a nature play area.

This fall, another round of workshops will address the finer details of the plan, such as playground design and equipment, the tennis courts, the main park entryway, and specifics of trail improvements. ■

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Bird & Beckett Books: Lights, Camera, Action

This summer Bird & Beckett Books and Records briefly became a sound stage to Tollywood, the Bengali-language commercial equivalent to the Hindi-language Bollywood. Well-known Indian director Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury spent the morning of July 18 there, directing his upcoming film, *Aparajita Tumi*.

Danny Yanow, a South San Francisco seventh-grade teacher who lives on Persia Street, heard about the shoot and came over from the Excelsior. "I love these movies," he said, "their dancing and their beautiful women." As befitting cerebral Bird & Beckett, though, Yanow was about to be enlisted as an extra for a more art-house sort of film.

Chowdhury's first film, *Anuranan* (2006), won Best Feature Film in Bengali at the National Film Awards (NFA), India's equivalent to the American Oscars®. His second film, *Antaheen* (2009), won four NFA awards two years ago, including Best Picture and Best Cinematography.

His film company, numbering some 15 crew members, descended upon Glen Park at 9:30 a.m. They spent a month in the Bay Area, with additional locations in Berkeley and San Jose.

The new film features prominent bookshop scenes. Eric Whittington, proprietor of Bird & Beckett, got involved after learning of Chowdhury's project from Bishu Chatterjee, a bassist with drummer Jimmy Ryan who plays jazz at Bird & Beckett each month. Chowdhury and Chatterjee know one another from India.

Chowdhury stood next to Janakiraman Padmapriya, the young star of his film. He positioned his young actress in front of Bird & Beckett's window display while, outside, his director of photography, Ranjan Palit, framed the shot.

Taking time from discussing how she should stand and move in a scene, he said, "This bookshop is very cozy. The ambience is nice and it has the right kind of books. I loved the store right away." He moved Padmapriya a bit closer to the window, which displayed the work of Van Buren Street's Dolan Eargle, as well as that of Picasso and Matisse.

"This is the first shot of the day," he reminded her. "Act natural and divert your eyes." The diminutive actress brushed aside strands of brown hair with one hand and held a book with the other. Behind her several extras—

who had learned about the filming from craigslist and traveled from Sebastopol to take part—hit their marks, nonchalantly leafing through books displayed on the new-fiction and non-fiction shelves.

While extras perused the books, Padmapriya stared through the window, toward the automobiles parked on Chenery. "Cut!" Chowdhury said. Filmmaking, even on Chenery Street, involves lots of hurry up and waiting.

Outside, the crew began setting up for a street scene to be staged on Chenery near Carrie Street. Jeremy Lipsin, a June graduate of Analy High School in Sebastopol who is destined for Sarah Lawrence College to study drama, prepared for his movie debut. "This is awesome," he said. "I'm an extra in a movie."

His mother, Susy, walked over: "We left at 6 o'clock. The things I do for my

son! This is a great send-off for the melting pot he'll experience in New York." Padmapriya waited as a cameraman set up an establishing shot. The lead actress, a real-life graduate of New York University in Manhattan, looked thoughtful: "The film is about relationships. I play a young economist who grew up in San Francisco."

The film is based on a novel by Sunil Gangopadhyay, a Bengali writer who has published well over 200 books of poetry, fiction and essays in his 60-year career. Megan Stafford, a high school classmate of Lipsin's who plans to attend U.C. Santa Cruz this fall, smiled: "It's neat to be here. Jeremy and I had a fun film class together."

Hiten Vora, a cameraman from Mumbai, agreed: "San Francisco is too good. The scenery is too good, and the lighting and weather are fine."

Back inside for one last scene, Pad-

mapriya strolled to shelves that housed children's books. The extras took their places. Set Director Neha asked Whittington for a book bag to serve as a prop. Padmapriya affected a worried look, as the script called for. She peeked from behind a stack of Harry Potter fantasies. The camera rolled.

Neha announced that there would be another shoot in Golden Gate Park, for any interested extras. Jeremy Lipsin's mother took notes. The crew gathered up its gear.

Whittington looked satisfied. He'd sold some books, well before the hour he'd normally be open for business. He greeted people new to the neighborhood, and best of all he contemplated a reciprocal visit to India. In January 2012, when the film he'd just hosted is scheduled to open, he plans to be off to Kolkata with his family to see its premiere. ■



Camera Crew films a movie at Bird & Beckett on July 18.

Photo by Elizabeth Weise

Bosworth Condos Finally Debut

Delays have pushed back the debut of the long-awaited condos on Bosworth and Rousseau streets numerous times, but significant progress has been made recently and four of the units have now been put on the market.

by
Jodell
Scott

The reasons for the latest delays have been largely out of the developer's hands, according to Robert Huggins, representative of the current developer, Encore, which bought the foreclosed project in December, 2010. In the bureaucracy of the San Francisco Water Department and PG&E, Huggins said, emergencies rank above construction projects, so those agencies' scheduled and necessary visits to the construction site were delayed several times. But sidewalks are finally in and work on rear and front landscaping is under way. The possibility of trees in front was suggested by a neighbor, and is being considered by Encore.

The first of the 12 condos, four large units on Bosworth Street, were scheduled to go on the Multiple Listing Service the week of September 17, with plans for a kick-off weekend BBQ for brokers and neighbors. Paragon Realty is in charge of marketing the units, and the Realtors' website highlighting the condos will be up soon, said Huggins.

As for the controversial, unattractive structures around the corner on Rousseau Street, Huggins explained that extensive testing has shown that the framing is sound. Those badly weathered structures represent \$100,000 in construction costs, he said, so much of the original Rousseau Street construction—approximately two-thirds of the original structure—is salvageable. Roofs and flooring will be removed from much of the structure, and the site will be cosmetically cleaned up before the Bosworth units hit the market, which should significantly improve the development's appearance.

After years of legal proceedings and foreclosure, permit renewals and construction delays, neighborhood frustration and patience, the debut of the Bosworth condos is being applauded by nearby residents who will finally have new neighbors in place of a fenced-off, derelict construction site. ■

Glen Park—A Walkable Neighborhood

What makes Glen Park a special neighborhood? Of course, many things make a neighborhood special, but the fact that Glen Park is “walkable” is one of the important reasons.

When I first came to Glen Park, I noticed that people said hello to one another as they passed on Chenery Street. Having lived most of my life in big cities, I recognized this immediately as a sign that the neighborhood was special: Gasp!—a complete stranger said hello to me and smiled for no reason other than to say hello!

Hikers often do say hello to one another as they cross paths on the trails in the parks around the Bay Area, including in Glen Canyon Park. Of course, not everyone follows this practice, but it happens often enough that when someone says hello to you, you do feel a responsibility to “pass it on” and say hello to the next person. I think this is part of what happens in a special neighborhood like Glen Park, when people walk by one another and see each other face to face.

The Glen Park neighborhood is also special because you can run into both friends and acquaintances on the street. Since so many of us go to the village to buy things or run errands, or walk through the village on our way home, this makes it an unsurprising occurrence when you run into someone you recognize. The walking neighborhood even slows down some cars, because you know that very possibly you will see someone you know on the street while driving. How often have you slowed down and breathed a sigh of relief after getting off the freeway and arriving on the quieter streets of Glen Park?

Of course, many things can be done to make the neighborhood more friendly to pedestrians. During the rush hour, there are so many cars crossing through the intersection at Diamond and Bosworth that pedestrians have to be extra watchful, especially for cars making turns. Seeing this, I worry about the safety of the intersection for older persons and small children.

Fortunately, the San Francisco Planning Department and the City transportation planners are trying to improve the situation. The Glen Park Plan's neighborhood improvements include proposals to “bulb out” some sidewalks at corners so pedestrians have a shorter distance to cross and less need to race across the street before the light changes. Those bulb-outs could

also make the sidewalk more accessible to handicapped persons who use wheelchairs or are just slow walkers, and those like me whose vision is not too good to start with and not getting better as we get older.

Some of these planned improvements will make a positive difference for walkers, just as the handicapped-accessible ramps now being installed on corners around San Francisco are making a difference, one intersection at a time.

But there is more that can be done to make Glen Park more friendly to walkers. One of the major problem locations has been identified through the planning process for potential improvements to Glen Canyon Park. The entrance to the park on Elk Street scares me and other parents of small children because cars often come barreling down the steep hill on Elk so fast that it makes you want to pick up and carry your child across the street every time.

The plan for improvements to the Glen Canyon Park entrance includes some improvements to the sidewalk and the crosswalk on Elk Street (see the story on Page 1). In addition, added parking spaces are proposed where drivers can drop off and pick up passengers along the park side of Elk Street. These improvements should enhance pedestrian safety.

We should not find the existing situation acceptable in Glen Park. Parents should know that children can walk to and from the park, playground, recreation center and playing fields without worrying about automobiles. Fortunately, the recently completed plan for improvements to Glen Canyon Park gives improvements to the Elk Street entrance one of the highest priorities for future funding. These improvements cannot come soon enough, and we all should encourage our public officials to make this the very top priority!

Imagine a Glen Park that would be safe enough that children can walk on their own from the park to the village, and throughout the neighborhood. Glen Park is already seen as a haven for walking children on Halloween in Glen Park, when parents from across the city bring their children to our neighborhood to enjoy trick-or-treating in a safe, family-oriented environment.

The sight of all the people walking to the Sunday Farmers' Market at the BART parking lot also gives us reason to think that more pedestrian pathways should be opened throughout the village area. BART could improve its relationship with

the neighborhood very quickly by opening up more walking paths on the parking lot property.

Likewise, the City departments responsible for the land where a “social trail” has grown up over Islais Creek could work to improve the walking path. Improvements to “Islais Trail,” the semi-public trail in the green space between Bosworth and Chenery, would surely benefit the neighborhood and provide a more natural setting for walking most of the distance between the village and the park.

The Glen Park Community Plan previously had some options to “daylight” the creek along the public right-of-way between the park and the village, bringing it up to the surface again, removing the buried culvert it has long flowed through. The possibility of daylighting seems to be a long-term idea, but in the meantime there are social trails behind St. John School and along Bosworth in the riparian area where the creek runs underground. Some incremental improvements to these trails between the park and the village would allow for residents and visitors to walk in a more natural setting.

Every day and night in Glen Park, people are lucky enough to be able to enjoy walking in a safe and friendly environment. Let's appreciate how lucky we are, but let's also work to make Glen Park a more walkable neighborhood. ■

Mob of Vandals Wreak Havoc at Glen Park BART Station

A gang of hammer-wielding hooligans vandalized the Glen Park BART station at about 9:45 p.m. Sept. 8, smashing ticket machines, fare gates and Clipper card readers.

The hoodie-clad vandals also ripped down lights from the flower stall of longtime merchant Joanne Woods, who has been selling flowers in the plaza of the Glen Park station for years.

Authorities believe the culprits may have been involved in protests earlier that day at BART stations in downtown San Francisco. Police had arrested at least two dozen protesters at the Powell Street station prior to the vandalism in Glen Park. An estimated eight to 12 men, dressed in black, were involved in the Glen Park rampage, BART spokeswoman Luna Salaver told the San Francisco Chronicle. ■

Bikes and Beats: A Call to Localize

Musicians Morgan Nilsen and Justin Ancheta live in Glen Park and created a sustainable movement they coined “A Call To Localize.” The motivation for its creation grew from a desire they both have to bring community together while creating sustainable ways to maintain culture, opportunity, health, transportation and many of the other elements that fuel a thriving neighborhood.

by
**Ashley
Hathaway**

As music brought them together, community keeps them together. Both Nilsen and Ancheta live with an organized collective of artists in one house, sharing common chores and meal preparation.

They met at the Zambaleta World Music School in the Mission District and soon started collaborating on music. They eventually formed their musical duo “Cradle Duende.” Nilsen plays clarinet, Ancheta guitar and vocals. They soon realized that they were touring nationally but not locally. They wanted to bring their music and local inspiration back home. “Touring other places means not connecting locally,” says Nilsen.

One of their favorite places to present A Call To Localize and perform their music is the Glen Park Station bar on Diamond Street. Nilsen and Ancheta call their style of music “Klezmeno”—a combination of Klezmer and Flamenco—which includes influences of Latin, Reggae and Ska, with Afro-Cuban beats to back it. They also play with the internationally known artist MC RAI, who also lives in Glen Park, is from Tunisia and sings in Arabic. Ancheta describes Cradle Duende as their “own project of music—a cultural sharing of different styles from around the world.” He explains that A Call To Localize is “a way of bringing in other local artists to implement that music—trying to create a message behind the music with the idea that it’s a gathering of ideas on sustainability and true culture.”

They have presented A Call To Localize at Glen Park Station a handful of times this year, most recently in September. The next Glen Park Station show is scheduled for Oct. 16 (See Community Calendar, Page 20).

Cradle Duende performs in local venues such as Yoshi’s, Freight & Salvage, Oakland’s new Sustainable Living Center and the Red Poppy Art House. They also hope to perform at the Glen Park Festival.

A Call To Localize not only gives the neighborhood a chance to enjoy the music of Cradle Duende, it also provides an opportunity to present ideas to the community through various special guests and speakers.



**Musicians
Morgan
Nilsen
and Justin
Ancheta are
promoting
“A Call To
Localize.”**

**Photo
by
Ashley
Hathaway**

One idea that’s brewing: Food runs by bike, delivering produce from the Sunday farmers’ market with their large cargo bicycles to Glen Park residents. The idea is to provide access to the fresh local produce for those who are home-bound or who live too far up the hill to walk to and from the market, and to help reduce the number of cars making the short trip. Nilsen and Ancheta have four bikes and their housemates and neighbors could help with runs if needed.

They’re confident each of them could service about 10 houses on one farmers’ market run. They have started a sign-up sheet at the Glen Park Station for this service. They hope to begin the service before the market ends its season in November.

The cargo bikes are their primary mode of transportation, and also a way for them to participate in many other community-driven activities and events such as San Francisco Sunday Streets, bike music tours, and generating “pedal power” for live music. They pedal-powered a live band for the recent San Francisco marathon, and started the “Bicycle Music Festival,” now worldwide and the largest 100 percent bicycle-powered music festival in the world.

These are no ordinary bikes. They are the creation of Paul Freedman and his company, Rock The Bike. The models Nilsen and Ancheta ride have a rear-hub battery-powered motor that is engaged mostly for uphill hauling. The bikes also provide an easy, efficient way for them to deliver flyers informing neighbors of

upcoming A Call To Localize shows. Ancheta and Nilsen are definitely not motivated by money. “Wealth is not how much money we have, but how well we know the people around us and how

much the people around us know us and work together” says Ancheta.

Performance schedules and information about Cradle Duende are at <http://cradleduende.org>. ■

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San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White, who grew up in Glen Park.
Photo by Chris Hardy

Fire Chief's Ties to Glen Park

San Francisco's Fire Chief paid Glen Park a visit this summer.

by **Murray Schneider** She came unescorted. No brass trailed in her wake. She wasn't looking for fire code violations, and she wasn't checking on whether the fire hydrant in front of Buddies Market functioned properly.

She wore a stylish jacket, blouse and slacks rather than her command uniform. And her hair wasn't tied in the military-precision bun style she'd worn on June 6 when she visited Engine Company 26 to pay her respects to the families of firefighters Anthony M. Valerio, 53, and Vincent A. Perez, 48, who lost their lives in a tragic Diamond Heights home fire on June 2.

Chief Joanne Hayes-White came to Glen Park on July 29 to express her thanks to a familiar childhood neighborhood and reminisce a bit.

She pushed through the door of Pebbles Café on Diamond Street, next door to where her late father, plastering contractor Tom Hayes, had shared an office with realtor Bernie Kelly. She walked to the counter and exchanged pleasantries with Pebbles' Sheena Lee, a 17-year tenant of her dad's.

Hayes-White poured herself a cup of coffee and moved to a window table, the one nearest her father's former place of business, the one that looks across to the Canyon Market.

"Glen Park reached out after the Berkeley Way fire," she said. "There was such an outpouring of support from the neighborhood." She referred to the many sympathy cards that wended their way up the hill to the home of Engine Company 26, the number of people who dropped by the station to convey their condolences,

and the \$2,000 the Glen Park Association contributed to the families of Valerio and Perez.

"It's like a small town in a big city," she said, gazing through the window at the onslaught of afternoon village commute traffic. "It's more crowded now, more of a transit hub."

She shook her head at the memory: "I used to sit in my dad's office and he'd let me type on his typewriter. Afterward he'd take me to Tyger's."

She lifted her coffee: "Other times I'd play CYO softball. Or I'd take walks on Canyon trails. It was always [like being] outside the city, far from the city, yet hiking in the city."

Across the street a father and daughter left the Canyon Market with an armful of groceries.

"Even now I have my hair cut at Dalere's," she said, "and La Corneta's Joel Campos catered my sons Riley and Logan's St. Stephen's eighth-grade graduation parties."

The Fire Chief was born in 1964 and grew up west of Twin Peaks, close to the Stonestown/Buckingham Way firehouse. Her dad, who died in 2010, was born in County Limerick in Ireland, immigrated to San Francisco in 1949, and married San Francisco native Patricia Brosnan.

"Joel is an immigrant, just like my father," she said. "His staff is so stable because he's such a great employer."

She attended St. Stephen's Elementary School on Eucalyptus Drive and graduated from Mercy High School in 1982, where she served as senior class president and found time to compete in prep basketball and volleyball.

But it was fire alarms, not a referee's whistle, that caught her attention: "I loved fire engines as a little girl," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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"Beth Kershaw and Don Gable of Hill & Co. recently represented me in the sale of my home. From our first meeting they were enthusiastic, professional and thorough, always with my best interests in mind. Their experience and expertise in the Glen Park neighborhood was evident. They immediately came up with a sales/marketing plan that met with my needs.

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Ed Lee Shakes Up The Race for Mayor

The San Francisco mayor's race took an unexpected turn this summer when Ed Lee, the appointed incumbent and a Glen Park resident, went back on his word and decided to run for a full four-year term—a decision that immediately cast him as the front-runner and forced the other candidates to rethink their strategies.

Lee was appointed by the Board of Supervisors last January to fill out the remaining year of Gavin Newsom's term as mayor after Newsom left for the lieutenant governor's post. At the time, Lee—who has held several jobs in city government as a top-level administrator—promised he would be a caretaker mayor and would not run in this November's election. Once sworn in to the city's top job, he became the first Asian American to serve as San Francisco mayor.

Lee's months of denials that he would run started to give way in late July to subtle hints that he would after all. On Aug. 8, he entered the race. Several of his opponents, among them Board of Supervisors President David Chiu and City Attorney Dennis Herrera, blasted the mayor for his about-face and questioned his integrity.

"A lot of that's just a sideshow," said Scott Falcone, a 42-year-old Mission Terrace resident, as he shopped at the Glen Park

Farmers' Market on a recent Sunday. "I'm much more concerned about the issues."

Polls have suggested that other San Francisco voters feel similarly. Despite the bombardment of hits by Lee's opponents, his favorability rating has remained strong.

Falcone, however, plans to cast his vote for Supervisor John Avalos, who tilts the furthest left of any of the prominent candidates in the 16-person race. "I like his progressive bent," he said.

Tom Masterson, a Sunnyside resident, also shrugged off the fact that Lee broke his promise, and said that if the election were held today he'd probably cast his ballot for the sitting mayor: "I like the way he's handled himself. He's shown he's someone who can cross bridges to bring people together," Masterson said. "I don't fault him for running after he said he wouldn't. There was a lot of pressure from people who like the way he's been running the city."

But Edwin Critchlow, who lives in Glen Park, said he hasn't decided who will get his vote in the Nov. 8 election, even though his partner already put up a window sign for Herrera: "It's still up in the air," Critchlow said. The deciding factors, he explained, will be how well he thinks the candidates would do as mayor to improve Muni service and expand

affordable housing opportunities.

Most political insiders in San Francisco say the race is Lee's to lose, given his strong standing in the polls. But two factors have inserted enough uncertainty into the race to give others a fighting chance.

The first is public financing, which has allowed eligible candidates to bolster their campaign war chests with the use of money from the City's general fund to pay for mail, robocalls, paid staff and the like.

The other is ranked-choice voting, which allows voters to choose up to three candidates in order of preference. Under the system, if no candidate wins more than 50 percent of the vote in the first round of vote counting, last-place candidates are eliminated and the second- and third-place votes from those ballots are redistributed until someone wins a major-

ity. That happened last year in Oakland, when Don Perata secured the most first-place votes but not enough to put him over the 50 percent mark, and one of his rivals, Jean Quan, ended up the victor after the second-pick and third-pick votes were tallied.

In addition to Lee, Herrera, Avalos and Chiu, the other major candidates in the race are Bevan Dufty, the former supervisor who represented Glen Park and other District 8 neighborhoods; former supervisors Michela Alioto-Pier and Tony Hall; state Sen. Leland Yee; Public Defender Jeff Adachi; City Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting; and political newcomer Joanna Rees, a venture capitalist.

Ballots for the Nov. 8 election can be cast early, starting on Oct. 10 at City Hall. That day, the Department of Elections will also send out vote-by-mail ballots. The last day to register to vote is Oct. 24. ■

Glen Park Festival Benefits Neighborhood Children

The 2012 Glen Park Festival will be held Sunday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in downtown Glen Park. This annual neighborhood event is organized by volunteers, including neighbors and business owners.

Planning for the 2012 Festival will begin in November. The committee welcomes new members. To join in the planning and preparations or to volunteer your help on the day of the festival, visit the festival website at www.glenparkfestival.com or call 729-4059.

The 13th annual Festival this past May 1 provided entertainment on the main stage throughout the day, featuring rising local music star Misisipi Mike Wolf as the Master of Ceremonies/DJ. More than 50 vendor booths represented local artists and craftspeople, area schools and organizations, and neighborhood-affiliated businesses. In addition to the many Glen Park eateries, the "Off the Grid" food court provided sustenance for festival-goers via a collection of mobile street food vendors.

Families enjoyed an expanded children's area at the 2011 Festival. In addition to the fire truck, talking police car, bounce houses and balloon artist of years past, children of all ages participated in a mini Gymboree class, learned about and touched snakes and lizards courtesy

of Tree Frog Treks, and Bird & Beckett hosted storytime sessions and book give-aways. Residents displayed their neighborhood pride and supported the Festival's grant program by purchasing snazzy festival T-shirts, raffle tickets and beverages in the beer and wine garden.

Aside from bringing our neighborhood together, the Glen Park Festival benefits the community in ways that extend beyond the fun-filled festival day. Each year, proceeds from the Festival are awarded to schools and children's organizations in the Glen Park area.

In 2011, six organizations were awarded a total of \$5,300. Supported projects include materials for a new indoor play structure at Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School; lumber, planting soil and seeds for planting beds at Miraloma Cooperative Nursery School; a new reading curriculum for St. Paul Elementary School's K-5 students; age-appropriate basketball and gardening equipment for children at Fairmount Elementary School; a new refrigerator for cooking projects for children at Glen Park Elementary School; and assistance funding a new math specialist for Sunnyside Elementary School. The Festival association also donated to the funds set up to assist the families of Firefighters Lt. Vincent Perez and Fireman Anthony Valerio of Station 26, who died fighting a Diamond Heights house fire this year. ■



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Throngs of celebrants turned out for Laidley Street's famous 4th of July parade and street fair.

Photo by
Chris
Hardy

Fire Chief

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"They were fascinating."

Above all, though, her parents valued education, so Hayes-White entered the University of Santa Clara, graduating with a business administration degree in 1986. About then a federal court consent decree mandated that the SFFD redress the paucity of women and minorities serving in the department. In 1990 Hayes-White expressed an interest in firefighting to her parents. "They were supportive, but skeptical," she admitted.

The ranks of women grew from a paltry 10 or so in 1990 to well over 200 in 2011, comprising 15 percent of the SFFD staff according to a January, 2011 Fire Commission meeting report. The national average for women in U.S. fire departments is 3.7 percent.

"Vince Perez was a classmate at the academy and we'd tease one another," she recalled. "He'd call me the Mercy girl and I'd call him the Riordan guy."

When Hayes-White and Perez were stationed at their first firehouses, there was a scandalous lack of separate facilities for women: "We'd return from a fire, and we looked and smelled like it," Hayes-White remembered. "I waited my turn because there was only one set of showers."

She didn't have long to wait. In 1992, voters passed a bond measure and separate bathrooms, locker rooms and properly sized safety gear became the rule-of-thumb in the City's 46 firehouses, including one on Treasure Island, one in the Presidio and three at SFO.

"We were adults," she said with tact. "We made it work."

Firefighting was everything she had expected—and much more—and confirmed that her parents had good cause for their skepticism: "There was a two-alarm fire in the Mission and we were on the roof; the roof was spongy, the footing treacherous. Another firefighter pulled me back to the adjacent house before the roof gave way."

It didn't take Hayes-White long to rise in the ranks. With her athletic background she wasn't bothered by the physical demands of the job but, admittedly, she had some trepidation about her sketchy mechanical aptitude: "I studied hydraulics. And even now I keep my driver's license current, even tillering, which allows me to maneuver the rear end of a tractor-trailer ladder truck."

She also keeps her EMT training up to speed and says she's seen her share of both serious and fatal motorcycle accidents during her 21 years of firefighting

service. "I tell my three sons, no motorcycles and no tattoos!"

In 1993 Hayes-White was promoted to lieutenant, in 1996 to captain and in 1998 to assistant deputy chief. In 2004 Mayor Gavin Newsom appointed her Fire Chief. She traded going into hot burning buildings for dealing with hot-button administrative issues. Budget cuts and personnel matters now occupy much of her time.

"My goal is to provide high-quality service with no adverse operational impacts, including layoffs or station closures," she said.

She pulled a smartphone from her belt and checked messages, an activity never required of her when she hefted extension ladders or ran lengthy lines of fire hose.

"I miss the adrenaline rush of being close to a fire, though," she said, "but the skills I'm using now validate my parents' investment in my education."

Less clubby, less old-boy and less old-school than it was when she joined the department, the 1,550-member SFFD is like family. Hayes-White credits the ubiquity of cooking as the common language that helped break down gender walls and crack the fire department glass ceiling. "In a firehouse you have to share two meals," she said. "We become a sec-

ond family together."

Glen Park is never far from her mind—Patty, one of her three siblings, lives just around the corner from Pebbles Café, on Bosworth Street. But neither are fires: "The homes here are turn-of-the-century, wood-framed. One of the smartest things residents can do to protect themselves from fire is to change the batteries in their smoke detectors in the fall and spring when they change their clocks."

Bringing safety to another level, she added: "Become involved in the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) program, and have an emergency and escape plan for your family."

With the same lack of pomp and circumstance she had shown on entering the café, San Francisco's Fire Chief scooped up the empty coffee cups and bussed them to the counter. She shrugged her shoulders, as if to explain. "It's the mother in me."

That makes sense. Wasn't it our mothers who bandaged our scrapes, salved our burns and told us never to play with matches? ■

Those interested in learning more about the SFFD's NERT program can contact Program Coordinator, Lt. Erica Arteseros, at 970-2022 or -email sffdnerter@sfgov.org.

Sushi Bar Set For Chenery

Veteran Recreation Advocate Critiques Glen Canyon Park Improvement Plan

An as-yet-unnamed Japanese sushi bar and restaurant will be the new tenant in the space on Chenery Street vacated by Sel & Vin wine bar.

by
Gail
Bensinger

The owners are Ken Lui, Kenny Zhu and Raymond Ho, who already operate two popular sushi and sake places—Tataki at California at Divisadero, and Tataki South, on Church Street near Day. (Check them out at www.tatakisushibar.com.)

According to Lui, the trio are hoping for a December opening. They still are debating what to call the new enterprise, and exactly what kind of menu they will offer in addition to the sushi bar—other types of small plates or full entrees are being considered. But the food will definitely be Japanese, and they are committed to using sustainable fish for the sushi, plus organic meat and produce. Beer, wine and sake will be available.

They plan to remodel, with an emphasis on wood and bamboo. It probably will be open every night for dinner, at least at the start, and Liu said there would be a half-dozen or so new employees.

Before signing a lease, Liu said they did research on the neighborhood, and liked the village atmosphere. “We loved the vibe, we loved the environment,” he said. ■

Park Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Future improvements could come in a Phase Two, and would depend on whether a contemplated future bond issue is approved, new grants become available, and if money is provided by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, as well as grants and private donations.

Phase Two projects, which combined carry a projected price tag of \$16.2 million, include rebuilding and expanding the Recreation Center, improving the athletic fields and baseball diamonds, building major sidewalks on Elk Street alongside the park, and enhancing natural glade areas and bringing Islais Creek to the surface where it now runs underground through the park—and possibly into downtown Glen Park.

Even the Phase Two proposals, however, don’t complete the long list of future projects for which the community is clamoring: Silver Tree renovation and site improvements; hillside restoration; and creation of a nature challenge area, a play area made of natural structures—

The Glen Canyon Park Improvement Plan is likely to set the form for our canyon and park for the next 50 years. So getting it right is important. But after having attended the planning meetings and looked over the plan, I feel that something important is being ignored. The design for our future park has lost focus for active recreation—for playgrounds, for baseball, for soccer, for tennis, for football. It is designed to look pretty and emphasize nature, but it’s not designed to facilitate people in Glen Park actually getting out and playing.

by
Miriam
Moss

Six community meetings were held to discuss the plan. Unfortunately most were held Thursday evenings at 6:30 when families could not attend. The vast majority of people who were able to attend the meetings were the users of the canyon and dog owners who had their own agenda for what they wanted not to be changed.

The planners met once at the playground to get input from parents, and had one focus group with baseball and tennis reps. I was at that meeting, and I can say that not one thing we said has been put into the plan.

Another set of meetings on the trails development issue were held because trails development money comes from a different part of the Bond. It is not part of the \$5.8 million for the Glen Park Recreation Improvement Plan.

The first two meetings were to discuss the canyon and did not discuss the Recreation area—the playground, the Rec Center building, the playing fields and the tennis courts. However the Bond was specifically intended to fix up the Rec Center side of the park.

I believe that too much money is being spent on the canyon and too little on the recreation portion that is used by thousands

such as logs, ponds, stumps—that would sharpen and challenge the physical skills of children. Not to mention exercise stations, directional and interpretative signage and a picnic area and overlook.

Rec and Park staff are now moving forward with the project. The Trust for Public Land will work with its design team and our neighborhood to finalize the design for the portions of the improvements to be funded by the 2008 bond. A new set of workshops and input sessions will begin this fall.

Drawings of the proposed changes are online at <http://bit.ly/qndG9U>. ■

of children, baseball and soccer teams, families and basketball players every year.

There are 60 acres of the canyon, and only six acres dedicated to recreation. Yet the planners spent a great deal of thought—and hope to spend a great deal of money—to “integrate the canyon and the recreation area.” To them the way to do this is to “daylight” Islais Creek out to the front of the park.

The planners also spent time talking about things totally out of their jurisdiction, such as majestic entrances to the park at the top of Bosworth Street and at Elk Street.

At each meeting, planners spoke for the first hour and a half and then broke the public up into six small groups. Only one person got to summarize what the “majority” wanted at each table. We were told there were too many people for all of us to be heard. Finally, at the last meeting, they said we could have one minute to speak after the vote on the phasing. Of course by then the plan was a done deal.

This plan was not decided by consensus. Not once did they invite anyone from the recreation side of the department to come and speak about the needs of recreation.

In an era when 30 percent of our children are obese—and need more than ever to get outside and play—I think we should plan for as much active recreation as the six acres will allow, and integrate recreation into the canyon.

What does daylighting the creek—which is planning-speak for bringing the buried creek up to the surface again—do for active recreation? Nothing. It would only serve to attract mosquitoes and six months of the year it will be a dry, open trench. It will end up as an attractive nuisance.

The planners have allocated more money to daylight the creek than for the playground!

The plan also suggests that the space north of (behind) the Rec Center be designated “an informal picnic area.” Originally that area was for T-Ball, but 10 years ago the dog owners took that whole area over and now use it to run their dogs off-leash. If left as in the plan as an “informal picnic area” that is exactly what it will stay—an illegal off-leash dog area.

That area instead should be for active sports. Kids need more than a playground. They need space to run and jump. They need that space for circle games, 4-Square, hopscotch, tetherball, scooter and tricycle riding, basketball and the tennis courts.

Another serious problem is the placement of the tennis courts. “Tennis Court

Building 101” teaches you that a court should always be oriented north to south, so the sun is not in players’ faces. However, I was told the “the majority” of attendees didn’t want the courts north of the Rec Center. I can understand why. They want to keep that area for their dogs.

So the planners plan to move the tennis courts off the field area and up onto Alms Road, the dirt road above the present tennis courts. They also plan to keep the courts oriented east/west. This is totally unacceptable. There will be tree root problems and wet drip from the trees, which will quickly undermine the courts.

The playground is another very important issue that isn’t getting the attention it deserves. As the plan stands now, it will be rebuilt at 6,000 square feet. But it should be at least 10,000 square feet. At St. Mary’s Park, \$3 million was spent on the new playground, and at Mission Dolores Park \$3.5 million will be spent—but our planning process has allocated a mere \$1.4 million for the Glen Park playground.

Remember, this is a well-used playground that serves not only innumerable toddlers from the neighborhood but also the Silver Tree day camp—150 kids per day for 11 weeks—plus many schools that come for field trips, local nursery schools and the neighborhood.

Part of the space that might be used to expand the playground has been taken up with plans for a grand entrance from Elk Street back to the Rec Center. It is so wide that two cars could use it as a road.

One area that could be added to the playground has instead been broken off and termed an “Outdoor Classroom.” That seems a silly use of space—after all we have the whole 60 acres of Glen Canyon as an outdoor classroom. The “Nature Play Area” and the “Rain Garden” are also things that belong in the Canyon, not taking up space that could be a playground. Drop by and watch kids playing there some time; it’s amazing what they can do in such a small and poorly designed place. Image what it could be like if we put real money and planning into it, instead of acting as if it were somehow less important than the natural spaces of the Canyon.

Another possibility that was rejected by the planners was a new Rec building where the existing tennis courts sit. They decided it would delay the plan because they said it would take a year to get an Environmental Impact Review. I’m not sure why this would even be needed, as the space is already a park and that is how it would continue to be used. They would be able to better design

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Friends and family of fallen firefighter and paramedic Tony Valerio release balloons at Station 26 on Aug. 14 to mark what would have been his 54th birthday. Valerio and comrade Vincent Perez died in a tragic Berkeley Way home fire on June 2, 2011.

Photo by Chris Hardy

Park Plan Critique

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

a playground and other parts of the park with the building up front.

My feeling is that we have been waiting since 2000, so another year or so wouldn't make a difference. We do not have the money to touch the building yet anyway. We never will unless another bond gets passed, allocating money for our park. Glen Canyon Park is the only San Francisco park that didn't get full funding for its renovation and is having to phase in the improvements.

The devil is in the details, so please

look closely at this plan and draw your own independent conclusions. The bottom line: This plan has lost focus for active recreation. It is designed to look pretty but it is *not* designed to facilitate active recreation.

The Rec Center building is not always open. We need the opportunity to stay fit by having a great six acres for active play. ■

Glen Park resident Miriam Moss is a longtime advocate for, and supporter of, Glen Canyon Park. For many years she was president of the Glen Park Advisory Board.

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Strollin' with Dolan

Seldom-Seen Glen Park: Where the Wild Things Are

Most of us around here walk about, sometimes because we're going to or from work, or just to stroll, at other times just to take a long or short walk (healthy, you know).

by
Dolan
Eargle

For the most part we just glance at the latest modification or paint job on a home, or at a new garden someone has planted—like at Lippard and Chenery

streets, for instance.

Most of us also observe patches of land that have no apparent guardian—abandoned, isolated, difficult to manage, hidden, overgrown. Our eyes usually pass right over these places. The following are a few offerings that may appeal to wandering—or wondering—eyes. The numbers show their locations on the accompanying map.

Probably the neighborhood's longest stretch of undeveloped, semi-wild land is along Bosworth Street, between Brompton and Elk, extending into the park up to O'Shaughnessy (1). I'm not talking about that marvelous little stretch of dirt path—which incidentally is atop Islais Creek—from Brompton to Burnside, but the area some 20 feet north of the Bosworth sidewalk.

There's also an extension of this pathway in the park, an ancient, crumbling cement path along Bosworth, impassable in many parts, which has caught the attention of the alert people doing the proposed remodel of the Glen Park Plan (2). Encourage them.

Maybe the next-longest neglected area is the extension of Poppy Lane beyond the newer home in the lane, just east of Diamond Street (3). Two or three homeowners on Moffitt Street, above the lane, have—with great effort—carved paths down the steep slope to Poppy, but I doubt they get used much owing to the slope. So

the rest of the slope just gets to be itself, with fallen tree branches and vigorously wild versions of flowering plants. But you can't take the unpaved part all the way to the end of Poppy Lane. The south tail to Bemis has been blocked by a chain link fence. City maps show this as Poppy, but I believe the adjacent neighbors have wisely prevented foot traffic through this steep and muddy end.

There's also a broad swath alongside upper Swiss Street that leads down a steep slope. It is preciously undeveloped land that overlays an unstable clay slope with a spring at the lower side (4). Makes for a pretty view. Another similar but smaller spring-fed swath extends south of Moreland down alongside a home on Diamond at Moffitt. Ignore the immense metal storage box at the top and enjoy a pretty sight to a garden below (5).

Once upon a time, there was a lane parallel to Surrey Street, westward from Lippard. It might be called the Lippard Spur (6). For years one lone home sat on the spur with the remainder choked with blackberry brambles. Then some people needed access to their back yards for construction work—for this, the spur was opened and extended. Look, but you can't go onto this seldom-seen scene (nice new fence).

One more little place to be found is the path connecting the southeast end of Penny Lane uphill to Bemis and downhill to Surrey (7). Upward, it is carefully tended by a resident. Downward, the path is nearly obscured by a glorious spreading of nasturtium leaves and flowers.

The little community garden on Diamond Street just above Chenery, tended by the Glen Park Garden Club, guards a lane that runs behind the homes on Surrey and the shops on Diamond. It leads to a wooden gate at Chenery, near Castro. This

was another of our seldom seen “lanelets” (8), but it is now completely choked off by exuberant growths. The path is only about two feet wide, so I checked a Google map to see if it was really there. It does appear—only as a fat gray line, as distinguished from the usual skinny property lines.

Wander along Bemis Street and climb the long concrete staircase near the foot of Addison (9). The little undeveloped area at the top is named Fairmount Plaza. Perched over a huge rock face, it provides a wonderful view to the Bay.

In a more urban setting, one cannot ignore the long, greenish, tree-shaded banks on both sides of San Jose Avenue's Bernal Cut (10). Did you know there are great paved trail walks above both sides of the Cut, with very fine views, and the

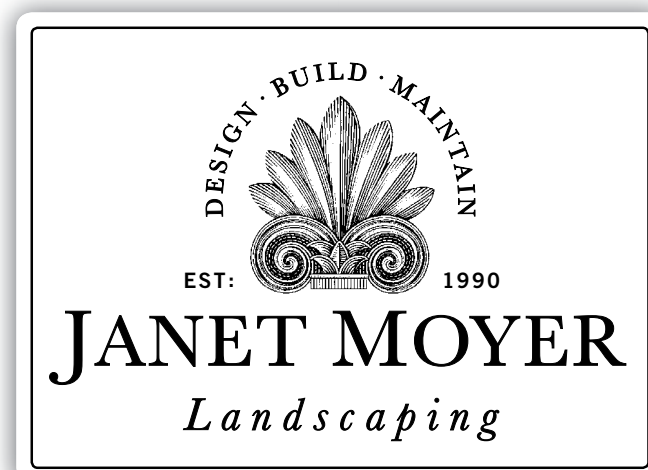
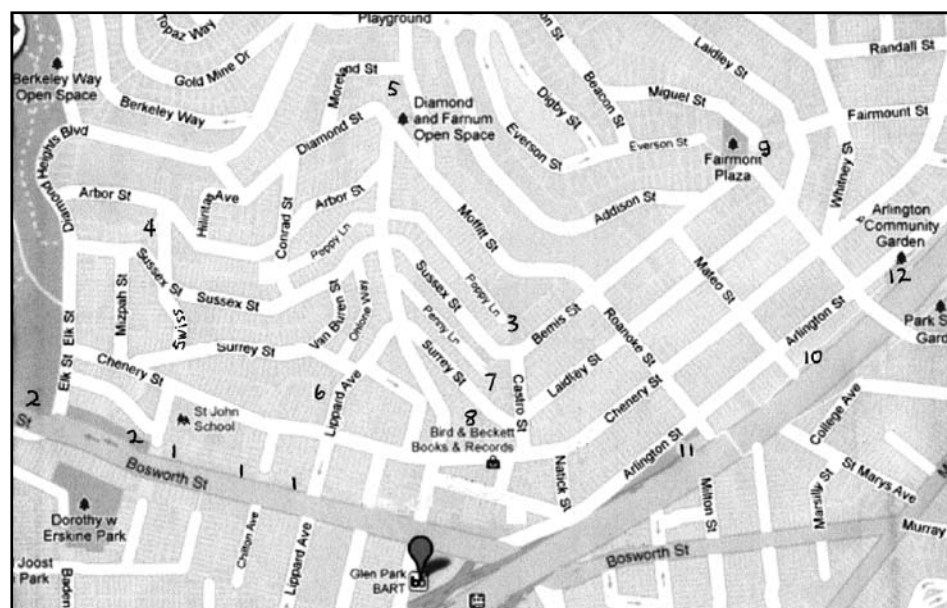
occasional rhythm of Muni streetcars on the rails below? These trails make for a fine stroll. Ignore, if possible, the trash discarded by irresponsible vagrants. Arlington Street residents whose back yards abut the walkway on the west side of the Cut, try to keep up the area—a constant but rewarding task.

Alongside the Cut, someone is taking care of a block-long stretch along Arlington, making it into a pleasant spot for a sit or a picnic (11). One final spot, not so seldom seen—and far from neglected—is the community garden On Arlington near the Highland Avenue bridge (12). Amazing, the long sign-up list for space for a plot. Go, see and marvel at the variety of vegetables and flowers. ■

What Irks Mr. Eargle?

“BART and Muni—Do you have something against putting up a sign at your Glen Park station with an arrow to the J-Church stop in the middle of San Jose Avenue? Yes, we know it isn't wheelchair accessible, but a lot of people would like to know that it's there (and a lot of people who do know would like to see it cleaned up!).

“CALTRANS—How about refreshing the paint on those sloping bridge struts over San Jose Avenue with a bright orange, like the spectacular bridges in Luxembourg? What a sight it would be, and easily done.”



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neighborly news from sunnyside

The Monterey Boulevard median improvement project has been chosen as one of the District 7 Clean City projects for this October. The plantings that are currently in front of the Sunnyside Conservatory will be extended from the freeway entrance all the way to Ridgewood Avenue.

Volunteers will be recruited city-wide, but neighbors are always welcome. Join us on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 9 a.m.

The Department of Public Works wants to complete the entire median in one day because they will need to close one lane of traffic in each direction while the planting is going on, so they want to do it as quickly as possible.

As this column is being written, the nation is pausing and remembering the events of Sept. 11, 2011, and the aftermath of the earthquake and Hurricane Irene on the East Coast. I urge my fellow citizens to be prepared for whatever disaster might come our way.

The San Francisco Fire Department provides Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training. It is too late to sign up for the classes that started in August in Glen Park, but for those who don't have time to take the six-week course, the NERT team has put together a two-day intensive course at San Francisco State University in the fall.

You can go to the SFFD website, www.sf-fire.org, and follow the link to the NERT website for more information. You can also e-mail NERT staff at sffdnert@sfgov.org or call 970-2022.

The best tribute we could pay to those first responders who daily put their lives in danger for our safety is to be prepared so we know what to do. That way we don't become part of the problem. ■

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

news from city hall

I'm focusing on improving two areas where we as a city can do better: our ballot measure system and the way we maintain our trees.

by
**Supervisor
Scott
Wiener**

Improving Our Broken Ballot Measure System

Two of the most common questions I'm asked as an elected official are, "Why do you make us vote on so many things?" and "Why doesn't the Board of Supervisors do its job and pass legislation without asking us to pass it for you?" I am sponsoring a charter amendment—placed on the Nov. 8 ballot by the Board of Supervisors—that will start us on the long road of reforming our ballot measure system.

My proposal deals with the inflexibility of ballot measures once they're passed. California is the only state in the country where legislation passed by the voters can be amended only by going back to the voters with yet another ballot measure. No matter how much time has passed, no matter how small or large the change, no matter the consensus for changing a measure, once the voters have adopted legislation, it cannot be amended by our legislature.

The same is true in San Francisco, unless a ballot measure provides that it can be amended by the Board of Supervisors—and ballot measures rarely provide for this. Once they are adopted, they are frozen in time. And because going back to the voters with an amendment is a significant undertaking—requiring the mounting of an electoral campaign—people who see flaws in voter-adopted legislation typically don't bother trying to amend it.

This permanent restriction on amending voter-adopted legislation isn't the only dysfunction in our ballot measure system, but reform starts with one small step, and my proposal takes that first step by making the system more flexible. It does so by gradually making some ballot measures amendable by the Board of Supervisors as part of the normal legislative process. It would apply to ordinances or policy statements placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors or the mayor. It would not apply to any initiative placed on the ballot by voter signature. It is forward-looking and doesn't apply to past ballot measures.

Here's how it would work: After voters adopt an ordinance, the board will not be able touch the measure for the first three years. For the next four

years, the board will be able to amend or repeal the measure with a minimum two-thirds vote (support of at least eight of the 11 supervisors). After seven years, the measure will be treated like any other piece of legislation and can be amended or repealed by a simple board majority.

This proposal will reduce the incentive for the board and mayor to place ordinances on the ballot that we should handle through the legislative process. No longer will supervisors and mayors have an incentive to bypass the legislative process by proposing ballot legislation that then becomes frozen in time.

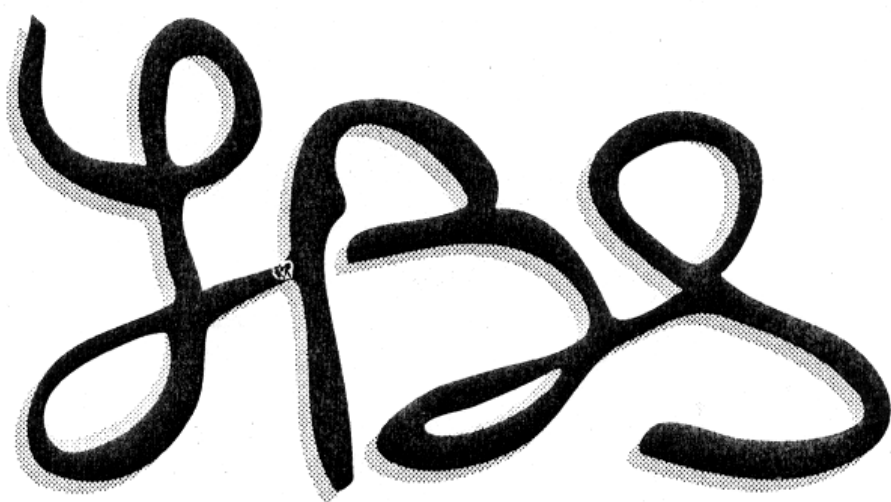
Doing a Better Job Maintaining Our Trees

Our city's trees—street trees and park trees—are among our most important assets. Yet, we devote few resources to actually caring for them. We all see the results—trees or limbs falling, sometimes damaging property or injuring people; diseased trees; and broken sidewalks. Currently, the Recreation and Park Department's tree-maintenance budget is so small that its staff can perform preventive maintenance on trees once every 50 years. The Department of Public Works only maintains one third of our street trees, with maintenance for the other two thirds foisted on property owners who may not have planted the trees, may not want them and may not know how to care for them. Despite having a terrific crew of arborists, DPW doesn't have enough resources to do a consistent job on the trees that are City-maintained.

This situation isn't acceptable. And, it's hard to see how we can solve it with our current budget. Trees, unfortunately, are often seen as expendable during bad budget years. For example, during this year's budget process, the mayor's proposed budget cut \$600,000 from DPW street-tree maintenance. I was able to get half of that cut restored, but even had we restored the full cut, the budget still would have been inadequate.

I am working closely with DPW, Rec & Park and others to come up with a dedicated funding stream for maintaining our street and park trees. My goal is to fund them such that our park trees actually receive the maintenance they need and DPW can take responsibility for all, or almost all, street trees and then maintain them. There are various options for this dedicated stream of funding, including a modest parcel tax or a tree assessment district. The ques-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



Lucy B. Stephenson
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school news

Glen Park Elementary School

Celebrating 100 years

by
Shelley
Wharton
Smith

Following the completion of the modernization project, Glen Park School's grand reopening celebration was held Saturday, Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone in the Glen Park neighborhood was invited to join us.

Visitors could see our beautifully renewed building, meet our amazing teachers and staff, talk to current parents, and hear about the exciting plans for the school yard. There were children's activities, including face-painting, crafts and a hula-hoop contest. We also had live music, food and bake sale and a raffle with some exciting prizes. Our festival was a great day to celebrate the school's 100 years of connection to our neighborhood.

I love meeting people who have enrolled their children or their grandchildren in Glen Park School following their own attendance years ago. People who attended Glen Park Elementary shared memories and pictures of Glen Park School at our grand reopening celebration at the

memory table. Kimberly Wong, a former Glen Park student and current Glen Park kindergarten teacher, has been leading the charge to gather alumni.

Help Our Green Schoolyard

Glen Park School is lucky to have one of the larger outdoor school spaces in San Francisco. We are looking forward to adding a school garden, more trees, flowers along the front, and natural play features in the yard, and we will need help from our neighborhood as we launch our Green Schoolyard project. Do you have a green thumb? Please feel free to contact the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization (GPPTO) at glenparkpto@gmail.com or stop by the GPPTO booth at the celebration.

Tour & Select Glen Park School Early

Tours of the school will begin on Nov. 8, after the San Francisco Unified School District's Enrollment Fair on Nov. 5. Tours will be conducted every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., until applications are due, Jan. 27. Call the school at 469-4713 to schedule a tour.

We urge prospective families to come and check out Glen Park School before Round One applications are due. We were overenrolled this year and, sadly, many

neighborhood families could not secure a spot in our kindergarten classes after Round One. As a school, we do not want this to happen.

Finally Finished

Starting at the end of July, my kids repeatedly peppered me with questions: "Is school ready?" "When does it start?" They watched as the new play structure went up in the yard and the gazebo rose just off the cafeteria. As co-president of the GPPTO, I spent quite a few summer days volunteering at the school to help ensure that it would be ready for the first day of classes.

The week before school started was a mad dash. Contractors were busily painting everywhere, teachers were desperately trying to ensure the classrooms were ready, cleaners were washing off construction dust, volunteers were digging out books from storage, and others were putting in windows, doors and finishing touches. With that final push, the school was ready Aug. 15 for its primary mission of educating San Francisco's children. I want to thank everyone who worked so hard on our school. The construction process, like any other big remodeling project, was not easy, but the building is beautiful and I look forward to the school serving our neighborhood's children for another 100 years! ■

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

Sunnyside Elementary School

The school year has started off with good news and new programs at Sunnyside Elementary. The 2011 API test scores were announced and Sunnyside students scored 807, a 39 point increase over last year.

Improvements to the curriculum will continue, thanks to generous sponsorship from our community partners. The Glen Park Festival awarded a \$1,100 grant supporting the Sunnyside math program, creating fun, math-based projects for the entire class and working with small groups of 1st-grade through 5th-grade students.

Sunnyside is in the process of hiring a garden coordinator! This is the culmination of three years of effort by parents who dedicated more than 1,000 hours of volunteer time writing grants; building planter boxes, a shed and composting and rain-catchment systems; and clearing and

landscaping yards. The garden coordinator will develop a hands-on science curriculum with teachers that takes students and science into the school yard.

Arts programs are expanding. Movement now will be available for kindergarten through 3rd-grade students. Students in 4th and 5th grades will complete coursework with poet Gail Newman during the spring semester. Partnerships with the de Young Museum's "Young at Art" program, the Contemporary Jewish Museum and Asian Art Museum will expand to more classrooms this year.

By the end of the fall semester, Sunnyside will have a mobile computer lab. The joint venture between the ExCel afterschool program and the PTA will include 30 laptops, three laptop carts and the introduction of smart boards in instruction.

School tours start in October. If you want to know more about Sunnyside before then, check out our new website, sunnysidek5pta@yahoo.com, for more information about Sunnyside events, staff and programs. School tour information will be posted the first week of October.

The second annual "Run to the Sunnyside!" fun run, walkathon and potluck was held at Aptos Middle School on Sunday, Sept. 25. This "fun"draiser is a healthy way for families to raise money, build community spirit and support PTA-sponsored programs.

The San Francisco Unified School District-sponsored bond measure, Proposition A, will be on the Nov. 8 ballot. This is the final stage of modernizing district facilities to provide a safe instructional environment. Sunnyside Elementary was built in 1927 and is one of the facilities covered under the latest bond measure. Improvements will include seismically upgrading boilers and plumbing, adding two classrooms, replacing four bungalows with a permanent structure and creating a green school yard area. ■

Cathy Meyer is president of the Sunnyside Elementary School PTA

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Glen Park News Classifieds

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Weiner Column

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

tion for property owners will be whether paying a tax or assessment will be worth it to eliminate responsibility for maintaining adjacent street trees. For many, it will be well worth it.

I look forward to continuing con-

versations on both of these important issues. As always, feel free to contact my office at 554-6968 or e-mail me at scott.wiener@sfgov.org. ■

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

Glen Park E-mail Lists

The Glen Park Association hosts a free electronic mail list open to all Glen Park residents. It is moderated by membership coordinator Heather World and consists of a weekly calendar and news update, with very occasional late-breaking news stories and police updates. To subscribe, send e-mail to glenparkassociation-subscribe@yahoo.com. Also, don't forget the Glen Park Association website at www.glenparkassociation.org.

Other neighborhood lists include:

Ingleside Police Station Crime Report

To receive the daily Ingleside Station Newsletter please send an e-mail to:

InglesideStationNewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.com

Glen Park Parents

Over 700 families in Glen Park and environs. Includes groups for new parents and parents-to-be. Moderated and spam-free. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/glenparkparents/>

Glen Park Expectant Parents group

E-mail nvkamath@yahoo.com for information.

Gay Glen Park

A low-traffic list for gay and lesbian residents, their friends and families. Moderated and spam-free. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gayglenpark/>

Glen Park Dog Owners

gpdog-subscribe@yahoo.com

Glen Park-Fairmount Heights Neighbors Association

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in glen canyon park

Among the most prominent animals seen in Glen Canyon Park are the various species of birds. Twenty-three species are known to live in and visit the park, from hawks, gulls and owls to smaller birds such as swallows, hummingbirds and sparrows.

On a walk through the park this summer I saw several species including house finches, sparrows, hummingbirds, yellow warblers and California towhees.

While people walking around the Glen Park neighborhood most often see such birds as rock doves, mourning doves

and finches, the natural areas of Glen Canyon Park offer a wider variety of species, which live in a wild environment among the native plants.

The area of Islais Creek, which runs through the park, is a popular venue for the birds to congregate, with willows, blackberry plants and other vegetation in which the birds perch, feed and seek shelter from the elements and predators.

In the drier areas of the hillside, California towhees can be seen scratching chicken-like at the ground, followed by retrieving their prey and eating them, or carrying the insects off to their nest to feed their young. They thrive in woodland areas, including city parks and gardens, building their nests in bushes close to the ground.

The towhees blend into their surroundings well with their light-brown feathers. In the spring and summer months, the birds can be seen collecting nesting materials or food and flying off to a more secluded location where they maintain their nesting sites.

Each species of bird has a distinctive call along with flight pattern, coloration and other distinct habits that make them readily identifiable.

While the park's resident owls hunt at night, most birds are more active during the day. When bird-watching, people often bring binoculars and a bird book. They may even adapt their clothes to better blend in with the natural surroundings when viewing the birds up close.

Bird-watchers will be more successful in small groups, minimizing their movements to keep from scaring off the birds they are attempting to view. Birds often perch on trees or shrubs at a slight

distance from the trail, so cameras with a zoom feature or binoculars are useful for getting a close-up view of the bird. If people sit or stand in one place for a time, the birds may get used to their presence and move closer to the bird-watchers.

When viewing wildlife, people should leave the area as they found it. Too much disruption of the natural habitat can be harmful to native plants and the animals that depend on them for food

Twenty-three species of birds are known to live in and visit the park.

and shelter, but spending time to understand nature helps ensure that it can be preserved.

The Friends of Glen Canyon Park website, <http://bit.ly/glencanyonpark>, has a wealth of information about the park and activities taking place there. The next Bird Walk is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 13, is listed in the Community Calendar on Page 20 of this issue. ■

Monika E. Lewis writes about our neighborhood canyon.

digging the dirt: news from the garden club

A big treat right now for gardeners is the availability of bulbs—all promising a gorgeous display of blooms next spring and summer.

We interviewed Hazel White of Flowercraft Nursery on Bayshore Boulevard for more information.

What bulbs are in the store now?

Alliums, anemone, calla lilies, crocus, daffodils, freesia, gladiolus, hyacinth, ipheion, iris, ixia, muscari, narcissus, ranunculus, scilla, snowflakes, sparaxis, tulips and watsonia. Lilies arrive in January.

When does each of these bloom?

Crocus, scilla and narcissus: early spring. Muscari, snowflakes, tulips: mid-spring. Alliums, anemone, freesias, ipheion, ranunculus, sparaxis, watsonia: late spring and early summer.

When is the best time to plant bulbs?

Tulips, crocus and hyacinth need to be put into a paper bag and placed in a vegetable drawer in the refrigerator for 6–7 weeks. Do not store apples in the same drawer. Plant them immediately upon removal from their improvised “winter.”

Bulbs must be planted in soil that drains well. Amend that clay soil! A sunny

site is best for most bulbs. Plant bulbs 2–3 times as deep as the height of the bulb. Use gopher baskets if these critters are in your garden.

Daffodils and narcissus and the others can be planted in November without refrigeration. They should be stored in a dark, cool location until time to plant. Water them well; then the rain will take care of the rest.

Bulbs do very well in containers, planted deeply in good soil with excellent drainage in a warm location.

Indoors, grow paperwhites (narcissus) in a shallow bowl half-full of pebbles. Nestle the bulbs in the pebbles, pointed-end up, and fill in more pebbles. Add water to just below the bottom of the bulbs. Do not let the bowl dry out. Place in a dark place until sprouts appear, then move to a well-lit location. Cool temperatures increase the life of the blooms. Don't forget those big flashy amaryllis; they also grow very well indoors and bloom for a long time.

Maintenance

Start by buying large, healthy bulbs with no damp or soft spots. Use organic compost to improve drainage, and add bone meal when you plant.

Do not cut back the plant after the bloom has faded. The plant needs the energy from those fading leaves to flourish the next year. Grow light and airy perennials around the bulbs as a cover.

Unfortunately, bulbs such as tulips, crocus and hyacinth require a cold winter during which they lie dormant underground, gathering strength for the next bloom. In this moderate climate you can dig them up in the fall and keep the bulbs in the fridge for their false winter, or, if you are a lazy gardener like me, you can treat them as annuals and forget about it. I think it's worth buying them each year.

Alternatives and Resources

Consider planting native California bulbs. Many are well suited to our climate and soil. Try some of the many South African bulbs. For instance the delicate gladiolus species thrive in containers outdoors in this area.

Online sources of information are Telos Rare Bulbs at www.telosrarebulbs.com, and California Native Bulbs at www.californianativebulbs.com. Flowercraft Garden Center is at 550 Bayshore Blvd., 824-1900. ■

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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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.

www.holyinsf.org

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For more info, contact the Rev. Rosa Lee Harden: vicar@holyinsf.org

25th

26th

Dolores

Fair Oaks

Guerrero

Residential properties sold in Glen Park this summer:

| Address | Listed | Sold | Days on the Market |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 39 Arbor St. | \$1,299,000 | \$1,299,000 | 26 |
| 375 Arlington St. | \$859,000 | \$854,000 | 42 |
| 414 Arlington St. | \$589,000 | \$570,000 | 49 |
| 1866 Church St. | \$1,499,000 | \$1,425,000 | 68 |
| 45 Digby St. | \$735,000 | \$678,850 | 64 |
| 57 Digby St. | \$749,000 | \$735,000 | 74 |
| 55 Elk St. | \$899,000 | \$950,000 | 14 |
| 2 Everson St. | \$3,800,000 | \$3,500,000 | 45 |
| 31 Fairmount St. | \$1,270,000 | \$1,270,000 | 49 |
| 279 Laidley St. | \$769,000 | \$755,000 | 43 |
| 171 Melrose Ave. | \$649,000 | \$705,000 | 33 |
| 191 Melrose Ave. | \$625,000 | \$615,000 | 275 |
| 81 Miguel St. | \$810,000 | \$825,000 | 10 |
| 19 Mizpah St. | \$689,000 | \$699,000 | 28 |
| 148 Moffitt St. | \$729,000 | \$745,000 | 14 |
| 41 Wilder St. | \$825,000 | \$875,000 | 34 |
| 35 Whitney St. | \$1,275,000 | \$1,300,000 | 22 |
| 36 Laidley St. | \$2,650,000 | \$2,525,000 | 33 |

glen park real estate

There is an upside to the downgrade. And here's why: Despite all of the recent volatility and the protracted debt ceiling debate—which led to the subsequent downgrade of the U.S credit rating—the Federal Reserve announced that it is freezing the discount rate (which is almost zero right now) for the next two years.

This is good news for those who have adjustable-rate mortgages.

Ironically, the takeaway for the real estate market generally was positive in that the Fed's action keeps downward pressure on mortgage interest rates, which are at near-record lows, and provides some near-term stability in home equity line rates as well.

And, if the Federal Reserve decides to implement further measures to stimulate the economy, some of those actions are likely to focus on holding down long-term interest rates.

Recent higher-than-expected consumer and producer inflation rates were shrugged off by the market, though if those rates continue to disappoint, upward movement in home-loan rates almost certainly will take place.

So, while all of the ups and downs are unnerving and the job picture continues to disappoint, if one is able to get into the market now, the mortgage rates would let someone afford more house than they originally had thought. My best advice is to establish a relationship with an experienced mortgage broker who can explain the different loan options and balance those products with your down payment. Remember, FHA (Federal Housing Administration) loans let qualified buyers put as little as 3.5 percent down!

Bill Berry is a Realtor with Zephyr Real Estate. He can be contacted at www.BillBerrySF.com, BillBerry@ZephyrSF.com or 378-7300

check it out at the library

The San Francisco Public Library is excited to announce that Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void by Mary Roach is our 7th annual One City One Book!

Known for her candid and hilarious explorations of the odder side of science, Mary Roach now turns to her most compelling subject yet—space—a world devoid of the things we need to live and thrive: air, gravity, hot showers, fresh produce, privacy and beer.

From the space shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA's new space capsule, Packing for Mars takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth.

"One City One Book: San Francisco Reads" is an annual citywide literary event that encourages members of the San Francisco community to read the same book at the same time and then discuss it in book groups and at events throughout the city. At the Glen Park Library our discussion of the book was scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 21. If you missed the event, don't miss this great book!

On Oct. 22 we will once again host a special cultural program. This year we will take you to Italy. Due Zighi Baci, featuring accordionist Sheri Mignano and tenore lirico Michael Van Why, will entertain with beautiful songs from the streets and cafes of Italia, starting at 3 p.m. A lecture on Italian opera, complete with film clips, will be offered by Alexandra Amati-Camperi at 4 p.m. Light Italian-style refreshments will be available throughout the program.

Our monthly school-aged program "First Fridays," geared toward kids ages 6 and up, starts Friday, Oct. 7, at 4 p.m. The first month's program will be button-making. The kids can either bring an image they want to turn into a button or create their own with materials we will provide. On Friday, Nov. 4, at 4 p.m., we will be hosting a science program on chromatography, which is a fun way to explore the separation of color pigments.

More library events are listed in the Community Calendar on Page 20 of this issue. For additional information about our programs and other library news, please visit our Glen Park Library blog at <http://glenparklibrarysfpl.blogspot.com/> or the library website, <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.

FAIRMOUNT

ELAC presents/presenta

A celebration of Latin-American food, music and culture

Baile Familiar

Friday, September 30, 2011-6:30-9:30pm

Placita de Fairmount, 65 Chenery Street

For info and tickets: wearefairmount.com

Suggested Donation: \$15 per family of 4, \$5 solo. Kids under 4 free



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: Thursday, Oct. 13, 7–9 pm, Glen Canyon Park Rec Center. Agenda includes representatives from both pension reform ballot propositions; Glen Park plan update; solar reimbursement program.

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.

Meet behind the Rec Center for these educational events in the Canyon:

Geology Walk: Saturday, Oct. 8, 9 am. A tour and talk by Gary Fie.

Bird Walk: Sunday, Nov. 13, 9 am. Docent to be announced. This walk will mark the debut of the Friends' new brochure, Feathered Friends of Glen Canyon Park.

Meetings and Plant Restoration Work Parties: Third Saturday of each month, 9 am–noon. Next dates: Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 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.

Glen Park Farmers' Market

Every Sunday, 10 am–2 pm, BART Parking Lot, Bosworth & Arlington streets. Seasonal, through Nov. 20 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving). The market returns next spring.

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. Daniel Mahoney, 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: Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 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 19 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 fall:

Children's Programs

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

Read for the Record: Thursday, Oct. 6, 4:30 p.m. For children of all ages. First Fridays: Friday, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4, 4 pm. For children 6 and up.

Teen Programs (Ages 12–18)

Teen Gaming: Thursdays, Oct 20 and Nov 17, 4 pm.

Monster Makeup: Friday, Oct. 28, 4 pm.

Adult Programs

Author Reading - Comfort Garden: Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6:30 pm.

A day of Italian Culture: Saturday, Oct. 22, 3 pm.

Glen Park School

Every Tuesday, Nov. 8 thru Jan. 23, 9–10 am: School Tours for families of prospective enrollees. Call 469-4713 to schedule a tour. Shelley Wharton Smith writes about the school on Page 15.

Sunnyside School

School tour information will be posted the first week of October. Cathy Meyer's column on Page 15 has more school information.

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

Monterey Boulevard Median Planting: Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 am, Ridgewood Avenue to the freeway entrance. Volunteers can help ensure completion of this project in a single day. See story on Page 14.

Artist Open Studios

Every weekend in October, artists in rotating San Francisco neighborhoods will open their studios to visitors. To find participating artists, visit www.artspan.org, click "Artists," scan down the Open Studios list at right and click "Glen Park"

(or any other neighborhood). Then click on an artist's name for information and sample artworks.

Two Glen Park artists will open their studios and welcome visitors to see their work the weekend of Oct. 8–9, 11 am–6 pm. View samples at the Artspan website, and stop by and meet these neighbors: Kathy Voutyras, 268 Joost Ave. Elizabeth McClellan, 42 Chenery St.

A Call to Localize

Sunday, Oct. 16, 8 p.m., Glen Park Station bar, Diamond Street near Chenery: Performing duo Cradle Duende, members of a Glen Park artists' collective, combines music with a message. See story on Page 7.

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 pm, for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 ZIP code.

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:

Sunday, Oct. 2, 1 pm: Poets Brant Lyon, Mary Mackey and Jane Omerod.

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2 pm: Authors Elaine Elinson and Stan Yogi talk about the women's suffrage struggle in San Francisco 100 years ago, and present their book *Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California*.

Sunday, Oct. 9, 1 pm: Vaganova Today: Author Catherine E. Pawlick discusses the enduring influence of the Russian ballet dancer, choreographer

and teacher.

Sunday, Oct. 9, 3 pm: Allan Jacobs, former San Francisco City planning director and renowned urban designer, reads essays from his recent book, *The Good City: Reflections & Imaginations*.

Monday, Oct. 10 (on-site) & Thursday, Oct. 13 (off-site): B&B Litquake Events; call store for details.

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2 pm: Poet David Meltzer will be interviewed on-stage by Gerry Fialka.

Sunday, Oct. 23: Multi-media artist Mitzi Wortman & friends present work on "brave girls."

Weekly & Monthly Series:

☞ Three book groups meet monthly, at 7 pm. Call the store for title(s).

Bird & Beckett Book Club: 1st Thursdays.

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.

🎷 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.

Oct. 2: Fingerstyle guitar soloist.

Oct. 9: Black Crown String Band (old-time/bluegrass).

Oct. 16: Parlor Tricks (old-time rag).

Oct. 23: Jinx Jones (jazz guitar).

Oct. 30: Tango No. 9.

🎤 Poetry with Open Mic: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7–9 pm. Troubadour/Bard Jerry Ferraz hosts two featured readers and an open mic.

Oct. 3: Peter Sherburn-Zimmer, Clara Hsu & Bill Mercer.

Oct. 17: Nancy Wakeman & Don Brennan.

Nov. 7: John Landry & Marina Lazzara.

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