



Glen Park News

Muni Reworks 35-Eureka Line Reroute Plan

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency appears ready to back off its controversial rerouting plan to run the 35-Eureka bus along Diamond Street and eliminate direct bus service to another portion of Glen Park altogether, after neighbors rallied to stop the proposed change.

Muni's original proposal, unveiled last winter, called for eliminating the 35-Eureka's current loop along Moffitt, Bemis and Addison streets and extend the route south along Diamond Street to serve the Glen Park BART station.

The 35-Eureka proposal is part of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Transit Effectiveness Project, which aims make the public transit system more efficient, reliable, safe and comfortable for its riders, in part by overhauling routes.

The goal behind the 35-Eureka change is to provide a direct Muni link between the Castro and Noe Valley neighborhoods and the Glen Park BART station.

While many residents are in favor of connecting the bus to BART, there was fierce opposition to the Diamond Street route, largely from Diamond Street residents worried about the added noise, pollution and traffic congestion that the buses would bring. The narrow, windy street already is used by

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GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING

Wednesday, April 9, 7 p.m.
Recreation Center in
Glen Canyon Park
For Agenda, see Calendar on Page 20

New Playground Comes Alive



Glen Park children and parents enjoy the playground during opening week.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

Kids being kids, they would not wait for the official inauguration of the renovated Glen Canyon Park Playground. They poured in before the speeches were over, before the ribbon was cut. And they kept coming afterward—eager to try out the new dome-shaped climbing structure with its web of ropes, the dual slides, sand pit, swings, and bars for somersaults.

"It's a lot of fun," exclaimed 7-year-old Katya Pabarcus, as she tried out the play equipment on Saturday, March 15, just hours after the official ribbon-cutting ceremony wrapped up and the politicians and other City officials took off. Her mom, Emily Pabarcus, kept one eye on Katya as she looked around.

"I think it looks great," said the Glen Park mom. "It's a big improvement; it feels more open. Before, the

draw was the canyon. Now, it feels like the playground is a destination, too."

The \$5.8 million Glen Canyon Park playground improvements were funded by the voter-backed 2008 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond, with added support from the Trust for Public Land and the California Coastal Conservancy.

Grace Mendoza, 8, found refuge from the blazing hot sun on the day of the grand opening beneath one of the climbing structures, and gave the new setting a big thumbs up. Her favorite part: No more splinters from the fraying old wooden equipment that got mixed into the sand that used to serve as ground cover. Now, bouncy rubber covers the ground.

"I always played at the old playground, and it was fun," she said. "But this is nicer."

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GPA President Michael Rice, left and Supervisor Scott Wiener help kids cut the ribbon to reopen the playground.

Photo by Michael Waldstein

GLEN PARK NEWS

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◆ FROM THE EDITORS ◆

FARMERS' MARKET REOPENS MARCH 30

The Glen Park Village Farmers' Market begins its 2014 season on Sunday, March 30, in the BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington streets.

It will continue every Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., through the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Nov. 23, when it begins its winter hiatus.

"Last year was a great success, and this year we have more events and activities planned," said Ric Lopez, president of the Glen Park Merchants Association. "Thanks again to all the neighbors for their overwhelming support."

"Sunday mornings in Glen Park will not only be the time to shop at the Village Farmers' Market, but also a place to meet and greet your neighbors."

It's spring in Glen Park—the blooming and budding and greening in the canyon are proof of that. So is the imminent opening of the Glen Park Village Farmers' Market.

Between March 30 and Nov. 23, the market will operate every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington streets. Take your tote bag and stock up on fresh vegetables and fruits, Grandma's jams, breads and confections from Destination Bakery, cheese and other seasonal treats for the week ahead.

This is the market's third season, and it has established itself as a popular addition to our local community.

Along the business corridor of Glen Park, there have been a couple of other changes in the past year. China House opened in February in the spot at 2794 Diamond St. vacated late last year by Hong Sing. A story about our newest eatery is on Page 16.

FitGLENfit, the new gym at 666 Chenery St.—a sister to fitBERNALfit on Cortland Avenue—finished its first calendar year "better than we expected," said Dean Eriksen, co-owner with his wife Jeanne of both establishments. They have picked up new members (who can use either site) and have seen an increase of non-members taking classes. "We're trying to cross-pollinate our two communities," he added.

Both facilities have been cited as the first "green gyms" by the San Francisco Green Business program. Dean lists some of the furnishings that contribute to the coveted designation: rubber matting made from old Nike sneakers, salvage lumber from the old Cal-Berkeley stadium, "people-friendly" cleaning materials, low-flow toilets, recycled materials in the T-shirts for sale, mostly battery-run equipment, fans instead of air conditioning, and compostable towels and cups.

Next door, Cheese Boutique owners Rick and Nada Malouf—who a year ago moved from the site the gym now occupies—report that they are happy with their smaller quarters downstairs from Dalere's Beauty Salon. They've sold their other location, on Irving Street in the Inner Sunset, and say the Chenery Street downsizing suits them. Their loyal customers don't seem to mind. "The holidays were on the good side," Rick said. The shop sold out of all their specialty items before Christmas, he said.

Operating a small business is always a challenge, but the difficult economy of

recent years is giving way to a renewed sense of optimism. In the village's commercial district, most merchants report things are picking up.

On Page 18, you can read Marc Dickow's assessment of the current state of real estate, but it's no secret that Glen Park and our immediate neighbors—Noe Valley, Sunnyside, Bernal Heights, parts of the Mission—have become desirable addresses. Thanks in part to the influx of tech-industry workers and other new residents, the Christmas shopping season produced improved bottom lines for Glen Park merchants.

At Glen Park Hardware, owners Susan and Hal Tauber said seasonal sales over the holidays resembled pre-recession good years more than the most recent "soft" ones, when the economy was shakier. Susan said a lot of parents of new homeowners, some from the East Coast and Midwest, came in for items to help their kids fix up their houses.

Of course, many of those visiting parents are also grandparents who visited the children's section of Bird & Beckett Books & Records, sometimes buying the same books they bought for their children a few decades ago. Overall, said proprietor Eric Whittington, business held up well in all departments.

Nick Whittington, Eric's son and the poet in the family, said the fifth edition of *Amerarcana*, the elegant literary review he edits and the bookshop publishes, is due out at the end of March. Nick noted wryly that his dad pitches the shop to the tech crowd by tweeting that its location is served "by BART, Muni and Google bus."

Zoel Fages at Perch also noted that sales at his gift shop were "up over last year," and that "a lot of neighborhood folks were doing their shopping here."

Across the street from Perch at ModernPast, owner Ric Lopez says he's been having a good spring. People are shopping for furniture and accessories for their new homes, he noted. And he

reported selling a dozen small terrariums during the holidays—maybe it's the way to start a garden despite the drought.

As for that other Christmas tradition at ModernPast, about 125 kids visited Santa Claus in early December. The most unusual request? "A typewriter like my mom used to have." Techies, take note.

Canyon Market, the village's largest employer, didn't experience a downturn comparable to other stores because a food shop tends to be "anti-inflationary," said co-owner Richard Tarlov. When money is tight, he explained, people tend to shop for food rather than eat out. But he agrees that there are signs of economic recovery, such as an uptick in customer traffic at the end of commuters' workdays.

As for commuters and everyone else, please shop the neighborhood. Our shops, restaurants and services contribute to what makes Glen Park such an appealing place to live and our merchants—including those who are here only on Sundays at the Farmers' Market—such a valuable addition to this community.

The readers of the all-volunteer *Glen Park News* look to this quarterly paper as a source of information that helps knit us together as a community. But the editors and contributors also owe our appreciation to local design guru Jack Orsulak for the modern look of our neighborhood newspaper. Over the past two years, Jack has been responsible for redesigning the paper's layout, our transition to full-color photography and a bunch of first-rate story ideas. Pressures of his job have forced him to resign as our volunteer design editor, but we must acknowledge his departure with a wholehearted thank-you. And thanks, too, to Liz Mangelsdorf, our photo editor, for taking on the layout and design role, as well. ♦

◆ GPA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN ◆

You are northbound on I-280 as the freeway curves around the Ocean Avenue-Geneva Avenue ramps, heading home to Glen Park. You line up for the San Jose Avenue exit, two lanes that sweep under the freeway structure and emerge on the three-lane San Jose Avenue, the slopes of the Bernal Cut ahead of you framing a gateway to the Mission District and the rest of San Francisco. You make sure you are in the right-hand lane for the sharp turn to Rousseau Street, and then Bosworth Street to the center of Glen Park. The rest of the San Jose Avenue traffic cruises by, still on off-ramp speeds until the signals at Randall Street.

We've used that route all our years in Glen Park, and before that, the San Jose Avenue route led to homes in Bernal Heights and the Mission. San Jose Avenue still works as it did when it was widened in the 1950s. This was a segment of the Mission Freeway that was supposed to go all the way to the Civic Center but was halted by the "Freeway Revolt," the movement that also stopped the freeway planned on the Bosworth-O'Shaughnessy route through Glen Canyon.

Now, changes are in line for San Jose Avenue. On a chilly Monday evening in February, I joined about 50 neighbors from Glen Park and nearby Mission Terrace and College Hill at Glen Park School to hear about the "Northbound San Jose Avenue & I-280 Off-Ramp Road Diet Pilot Project." (That's what they call it!)

Mike Riebe, from the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), presented the pilot project. He reminded us that prior to 1992, and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the northbound I-280 off-ramp at San Jose Avenue was a single lane. To accommodate traffic while I-280 to northeast, and parts of US 101 (the Central Freeway) were closed for post-earthquake removal, repairs or retrofitting, the off-ramp to San Jose Avenue was widened. Guerrero Street signals were also retimed to accommodate greater traffic volumes. When the retrofit work was completed and the freeways were reopened or replaced, the San Jose ramp was not reduced—the "road diet"—back to single-lane width.

Riebe's presentation noted that residents of the adjacent neighborhood have expressed concerns about high speeds on northbound San Jose Avenue and effects on safety for those who walk, drive and bike along the corridor. After an initial community engage-

ment period by Supervisor Scott Wiener's office, SFMTA proposes measures intended to:

- Increase safety for those who walk, drive and bike along the corridor.
- Reduce traffic speeds on northbound San Jose Avenue by reducing the number of traffic lanes on the I-280 off-ramp and on San Jose Avenue.
- Upgrade the existing northbound bicycle lane with a wider, more separated bikeway (where space allows).
- Facilitate safer turning movements to and from northbound San Jose Avenue and adjacent residential streets.
- Reduce cut-through traffic from northbound I-280.

We heard that this is a pilot project, with the understanding that in case of any unforeseen, significant and immitigable impacts, conditions may be reverted to the pre-pilot conditions. Phase I will include:

- Merge the left lane on the San Jose Avenue off-ramp with the lane from San Jose Avenue coming from south of I-280, north of the existing I-280 tunnel.
- Reduce San Jose Avenue to two lanes north of St. Mary's Avenue, then open up to three lanes just south of Randall Street to maintain the traffic calming effect of the road diet.
- Upgrade the San Jose Avenue bicycle lane to a more comfortable, separated bikeway (where space allows).

Phase I, which would be installed in March 2014, essentially comprises striping and signs, and would continue

until August, with evaluation and recommendations by October. The goal is to achieve speed reductions of about 15 mph. Phase II would maintain Phase I, but would reduce the San Jose off-ramp to a single lane, to achieve the speed reductions. Phase II could be installed by December 2014, with analysis and final recommendations in mid-2015.

After the SFMTA presentation, staff answered questions and took comments at several breakout tables. I moved around the room and listened. Neighbors on one-way Rousseau and Milton streets need to get on and off San Jose Avenue for most trips, and were very supportive of the changes. Others liked the plan to buffer the northbound bike lane, like the current southbound lane. Some comments pointed to the 2012 Glen Park Community Plan's long-term proposal to reconnect San Jose Avenue as a boulevard reconnected to local streets as the next goal. In my circuit through the room, I did not hear objections to the pilot project.

I did see concerns about the changes posted on the Glen Park Bulletin Board listserv—when is reaction to a project in San Francisco ever unanimous?

On a scale of neighborhood issues in San Francisco, though, the San Jose Avenue project looks like a good win. We will watch for the changes, and slow down.

If you missed the meeting, see the details at www.sfmta.com/projects-planning/projects/northbound-san-jose-avenue-i-280-off-ramp-road-diet-pilot-project. You can contact Mike Riebe@sfmta.com with questions. ❖

GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION LEADERS, NOW AND THEN



Michael Rice, Glen Park Association president since 2005, and Zoanne Nordstrom, who served as president from 1998 through 2003, during the annual GPA holiday party, held in December at the Sunnyside Conservatory. Photo by Denis Wade

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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.

Muni Reworks 35-Eureka Line Rerouting Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the 52-Excelsior.

There also was pushback from residents on Moffitt and Addison streets who depend on the 35.

Diamond Street residents and their neighbors on Moffitt and Addison organized to fight the proposals. They packed meetings, sent e-mails and letters to City officials, circulated a petition, and went door-to-door rallying opposition. The strategy proved effective, causing Muni to consider alternatives.

Helping lead the charge against Muni's original plan has been Betsy Eddy, president of the Diamond Heights Community Association. She crafted an alternative route for the 35, which would avoid the Glen Park portion of Diamond Street and preserve the Moffitt and Addison loop.

Eddy's proposal would bring the 35-Eureka down Moffitt Street, as it does now, left onto Bemis Street and then right onto Miguel Street. From there, the bus would turn right onto

Arlington Street and continue to Bosworth Street and the Glen Park BART station. The bus would then turn right onto Diamond Street to Chenery Street and back to Miguel, then left on Bemis and then right onto Addison Street, thereby completing the loop.

Muni transit planners agreed to study Eddy's proposal, and even ran a bus along the alternative route on Feb. 21 to test the feasibility. Joining Muni officials on the test run were representatives from the Diamond Heights Community Association and the Glen Park Association. Less than two weeks later, at a March 3 community meeting, Muni publicly endorsed much—but not all—of Eddy's alternative route.

Sean Kennedy, a Muni point man on the proposed route changes, said the agency would like to avoid loops, or "couplets," as much as possible, working under the premise that riders are better served by routes that go back and forth on the same street.

To that end, Muni decided to avoid Arlington Street and have the bus

travel both directions on Chenery from Miguel down to Diamond. After Diamond, the bus would stop at BART, turn left onto Arlington for one block, and take another left onto Wilder Street before turning back onto Diamond and then up Chenery.

The SFMTA governing board will consider that iteration of the 35-Eureka reroute proposal, as well as other proposed Transit Effective Project route changes, at a City Hall hearing on March 28. The meeting begins at 8 a.m.

This revised plan for the 35-Eureka seems to have more neighborhood support than Muni's original proposal, but serious concerns remain.

Janet and Richard Tarlov, owners of Canyon Market, are concerned about the use of Wilder Street, which is used by delivery trucks that serve their grocery store. "While we couldn't be more in favor of having the 35 run down into the village, we are on record as saying that we think having it on Wilder Street would be a mistake. The intersection of

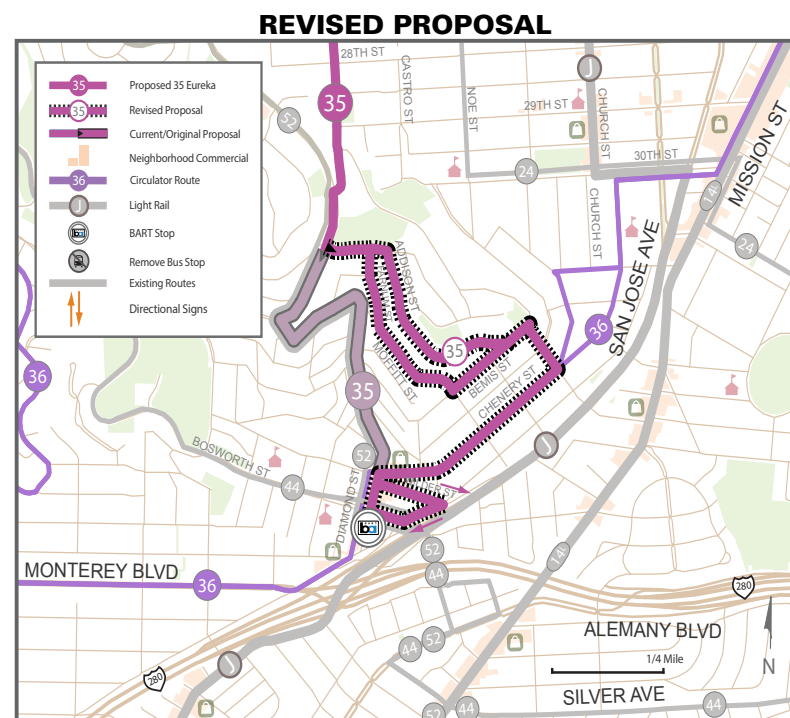
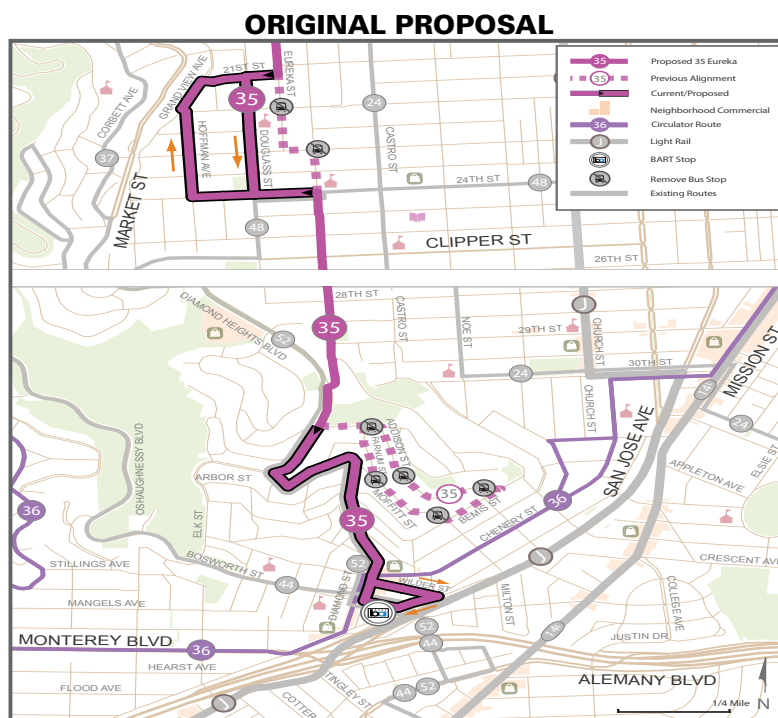
Wilder and Diamond is already a hairy one (no stop sign on Diamond and regular jaywalking across Diamond at this point) and Wilder is too congested with traffic and deliveries for our business and other businesses in the neighborhood," they said in a written statement.

Muni posted a response on its website: "Wilder is a commercial street. SFMTA will work with the businesses to reduce the likelihood of delivery vehicles delaying the bus, and will reevaluate effects on operations after service is in place."

As residents of Chenery and Miguel streets learn about the new route, they are voicing their own concerns. Muni's 36-Teresita line already runs along Chenery.

"Chenery Street has more traffic than any other street in Glen Park," said Katharine Westerberg, who lives on the street. "If the bus traveled on Arlington, it would avoid all of the congestion of the village area, which is getting worse all the time."

35 Eureka



KEY ISSUES / CONCERNS	RESPONSE
Proposal means a loss of service on the Moffitt and Addison loop, where senior and low income housing are located.	Proposal Revised: Service will continue on Moffitt and Addison loop. New route will continue to Miguel, make a right on Chenery, left on Diamond, left on Bosworth, left on Arlington, left on Wilder, and back on Chenery.
Concerns on adding bus service on Wilder due to traffic congestion and loading/double parking issues.	Wilder is a commercial street. SFMTA will work with the businesses to reduce the likelihood of delivery vehicles delaying the bus, and will reevaluate effects on operations after service is in place.
Residents on Diamond concerned that the proposal will add additional bus service on a narrow, congested street.	Proposal Revised: Service will continue on Moffitt and Addison loop. New route will continue to Miguel, make a right on Chenery, left on Diamond, left on Bosworth, left on Arlington, left on Wilder, and back on Chenery.

◆ NEWS FROM CITY HALL ◆

Glen Park faces a number of challenges around traffic, and pedestrian and bike safety. At long last, we are nearing significant steps forward for two of these challenges.

by **San Jose Avenue**
Supervisor **northbound traffic**
Scott **calming:** Due to the
Wiener current design of the

southern section of San Jose Avenue—which was created as a freeway that never actually happened—many northbound vehicles exiting Highway 280 use the street as a freeway extension and significantly exceed the 35 mph posted speed limit, with an average speed of 50 miles per hour. As a result, neighbors on the east side of San Jose Avenue are subjected to awful traffic conditions, and northbound bicyclists are exposed to potential collisions, since there is no buffer between auto traffic and the bike lane.

Over the past year or so, my office has worked closely with our Municipal Transportation Agency and Caltrans to formulate a pilot program to calm traffic on northbound San Jose Avenue, and to create a safer environment for motorists, cyclists, and neighbors. We unveiled the proposal at a recent community meeting at Glen Park Elementary School. Glen Park Association President Michael Rice attended that meeting and writes about the project in his column on Page 3.

The pilot will change northbound San Jose Avenue to mirror the southbound direction, including removing

one lane of traffic (going from three lanes to two, as currently exists on the southbound side) and creating a painted buffer between traffic and the bicycle lane. These improvements will improve conditions significantly while still allowing easy access for cars exiting 280.

Diamond-Bosworth intersection improvement project: More than a decade ago, the late Rep. Tom Lantos obtained a \$3 million earmark to improve conditions at the troubled Diamond-Bosworth intersection. After approval of the Glen Park Plan, I asked the MTA and Planning Department to work with my office and the community to formulate a plan to make this much-needed and long-overdue investment.

The design is now being finalized, after significant helpful community feedback, and we anticipate that work on the intersection will begin this June and be completed by October. The plan will change traffic signalization to improve traffic flow, including a left-turn signal for southbound Diamond traffic turning onto Bosworth; add pedestrian bulb-outs to improve safety; and add landscaping and other improvements to beautify the intersection. ♦

Supervisor Scott Wiener represents District 8, which includes Glen Park, on the Board of Supervisors. To receive his monthly newsletter or to follow him on Facebook or Twitter, go to www.scottwiener.com.

Katie Vidosh Dies at 100

Katie Vidosh, whose 100th birthday last September was reported in the Fall 2013 issue of the Glen Park News, died peacefully of natural causes Dec. 23 at the home on Diamond Street where she had lived for 64 years. She is survived by her four children, Jack, Walt, JoAnn and Diane; 13 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Katie's birthday brought commendations from President and Michelle Obama, the Vatican, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and NBC News. On Jan. 14, District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, who had presented Katie with a birthday proclamation from the Board, moved that the Board adjourn its meeting in her memory. "She was an amazing lady," Wiener said. "I felt very honored to be included in her 100th birthday." ♦



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♦ NEWS FROM INGLESIDE STATION ♦

With the recent increase in vehicle-pedestrian collisions, there has been a great deal of talk about traffic safety issues. Unfortunately, a great deal of the talk seems to be about casting blame. The problem with blaming different groups of commuters is that it usually comes after a collision has occurred, and we see that so many of these collisions were preventable.



In an effort to prevent collisions, members of Ingleside Station have been engaging in educational outreach. Our public safety part-

ners at San Francisco SAFE (sfsafe.org) have provided us with fliers to hand out to the public to increase awareness of some of the dangerous behaviors that may contribute to collisions.

Some driver safety tips:

- Be extra careful in marked schools zones. Always expect young children to appear at any time.
- Remember to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks before making a right turn on red light.
- Never pass a standing streetcar or cable car that is boarding or discharging passengers.
- Additionally, please inspect your vehicle and make sure your lights and windshield wipers are in good working order, that there is nothing hanging from your rearview mirror that might obstruct your view, and that your windows and wind-

shield are clean and unobstructed.

Pedestrian safety tips:

- Never cross against a red light.
- When walking in darkness, wear light-colored or reflective clothing.
- It is safer to cross at a controlled intersection.
- Also, when entering the crosswalk, make eye contact with the driver of an approaching vehicle. Make sure the driver sees you and is stopping the vehicle before you proceed.

Regardless of how you travel through the neighborhood, please stop being distracted by texting or talking on your phone while you are moving. There is no message or conversation on your phone that is more important than your safety or the safety of those around you.

The officers of Ingleside Station have been increasing their enforcement activity as well. The San Francisco Police Department has reviewed several years of collision data to see which vehicle code violations are leading to the most collisions. We are stepping up enforcement action against those behaviors

that have been leading to collisions.

I'm sure that you and your friends, family members and neighbors could come up with at least a dozen more safety tips. Please, I'm asking you to talk to your friends, family members and neighbors about traffic safety and to exchange ideas. The more we share this information with each other, the better.

We all have a role to play in making our streets and sidewalks safer. Not just one group does, but all of us working together. ♦

Capt. Timothy Falvey is the commanding officer at Ingleside station, serves Glen Park. This is his inaugural column for the Glen Park News.

♦ CHECK IT OUT AT THE LIBRARY ♦

Do you know where your library card is? If not, or if you have never had one, this is an excellent time to visit the library—in January we launched our five colorful new designs. They were selected from more than 3,500 entries in a design contest sponsored by the Mayor's office, Denise Sanderson Improve SF and the San Francisco Public Library.

"Having a library card empowers our users to be lifelong learners and readers," said City Librarian Luis Herrera, a big supporter of the new designs.

The contest, held in September and October 2012, accepted entries in five categories, divided by age: 2nd grade and under; 3rd through 5th grades; middle school; high school; and adult. For the first time ever, in addition to four children's designs, San Francisco Public Library also has a design created by an adult artist. The Library also continues to offer a "classic" or standard card.

There are some special programs at the Glen Park branch that I would like to highlight. Please join us on Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. for a fascinating talk about the brain. Learn how intellectual ability in the brain changes with normal aging, as well as the various pathologies that can happen as we age, plus 25 tips that will ensure that your brain survives well into old age.

Also for adults, on Saturday, April 12, at 3 p.m., we will have a do-it-yourself Spring Tote Bags hand-sewing workshop. Instructors will teach you how to custom-

ize a plain bag into a unique springtime tote that you can use to carry your library books or when you shop at the local farmers' market. All materials will be provided, but space is limited. Please sign up at the Information Desk or call 355-2858.

For children, we will be having our annual puppet show, which is part of a system-wide Performing Arts Festival, on Saturday, March 22 at 1:30 p.m. The Fratello Marionettes perform "The Carnival of the Animals," featuring three well-known tales: "The Three Little Pigs," "The Tortoise and the Hare" and "The Ugly Duckling."

For teens, come and build a marshmallow catapult during Do it Yourself Teen Tech week. The program is on Thursday, March 20 at 3:30 p.m.

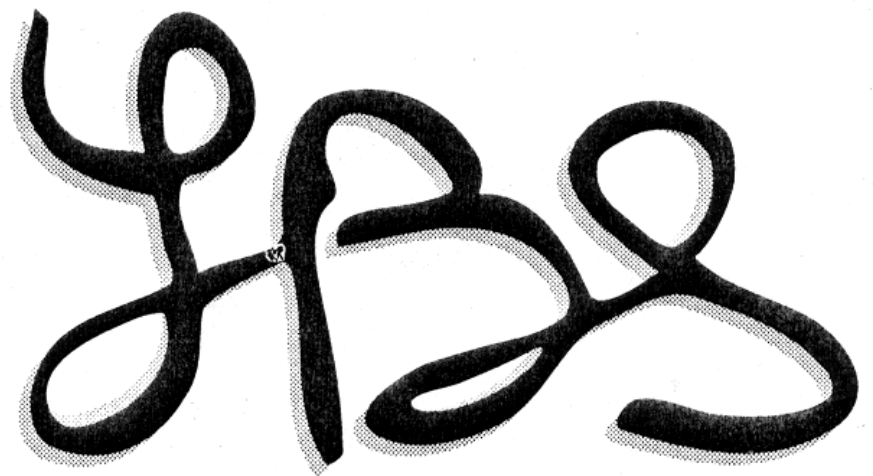
The Community Calendar on Page 20 has information about other coming events. To find out more about our programs and other library news, please visit our Glen Park Library Blog at glenparklibrarysfpl.blogspot.com. ♦

Denise Sanderson is chief librarian at the San Francisco Public Library's Glen Park Branch.

GLEN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

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By appointment only

Glen Park Association Board Announces Grant Program

The Glen Park Association grants program announced last December is under way. GPA is offering grants up to a maximum of \$2,000 each to organizations, institutions and public agencies to fund initiatives that promote the collective interests of Glen Park residents, support beneficial neighborhood projects or carry out educational and charitable endeavors supported by the association's membership.

"After we publicized the grant program, we received three interesting proposals," said Michael Rice, GPA president. "A board committee is reviewing them, and we hope to announce the decisions in early April. And we will continue the application and funding cycles. Some of us will reach out to make sure that people know about the program."

The Glen Park Association has made donations in the community in the past, on a case-by-case basis, such as to the Glen Park Library; to Glen Park, Sunnyside and Fairmont school PTAs; and to the Glen Park Recreation Center for play equipment.

The GPA also made special donations in 2011 to the families of the firefighters who lost their lives in the Berkeley Way fire.

But, according to a statement from the GPA board of directors, a decision was made "to improve and encourage the solicitation and award of donations. [Last] fall, we spent several months reviewing GPA's financial status, year-to-year budgets, account balances, and the process for a formal grant program."

The board decided to:

- Allocate \$12,000 of the GPA reserves for a multi-year grant program;
- Develop grant funding guidelines;
- Ensure that grants make a contribution to the Glen Park community;
- Create a simple and straightforward application and review process.

The board will consider the proposals, and only under special circumstances will award grants larger than \$2,000.

More information on the program can be found at www.glenparkassociation.org/grants. ♦



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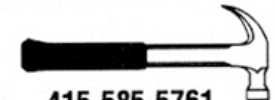
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Neighbors Step Up to Improve Penny Lane Path

Penny Lane, once a 19th century carriage path, makes a short, rutted journey, threading between Sussex Street and Surrey Street backyards, then dead-ends after 200 yards.

At that point, the public easement bifurcates: fork left, up by Murray Schneider to Sussex Street; or dog-leg right, down to Surrey Street.

“The fact is, the change in elevation made the Surrey Street descent difficult in wet weather,” said Adam King, a Diamond Street resident for 18 years. “The path was overgrown with Cape ivy and Himalayan blackberry, and in heavy rains a significant stream developed and spilled onto Surrey Street.”

King and several of his 18 neighborhood volunteers—including children—gathered at the end of the lane where it meets the paths on a recent Saturday to continue working on a project that has occupied them since March 2013—preparing the soil and weeding. Nature’s perfume scented the air and songbirds jabbered.

Due to the efforts of these neighbors, the lane’s 90-degree turn leading down to Surrey Street is significantly changed. It now consists of 39 steps, a retaining wall of 1,800 concrete bricks, and hundreds of drought-tolerant native plants such as coyote bush and California lilacs.

King, an architect for BAR Architects, moved to a 16-foot tall metal mesh spire that towers like an exclamation mark, punctuating the split in the furrowed path. “It’s literally a landmark,” he said about the tower, which eventually will be covered with grapevines. “It will draw strollers down the lane.”

Stacked next to it were concrete blocks, which were put in place by a Mission Clean and Green team and which had the imprimatur of the Department of Public Works.

King did the necessary preliminary spadework. He organized signature-gathering of Surrey Street stakeholders and delivered an informational presentation at a scheduled Glen Park Association meeting.

“The San Francisco Park Alliance acted as liaison between Friends of Penny Lane and DPW,” said King. “It provided a fiscal sponsorship program to handle neighbor donations to a dedicated account.”

Altogether, \$6,000 made it into the Park Alliance coffers, earmarked to cover the bills for plants, bark, bricks, fertilizer and tools.

Ben Cook has lived on Surrey Street for six years, and he accompanied his boys, Miles, 7, and Jasper, 5, to the



Adam King, Kay Hamilton Estey, Ben and Jasper Cook take a respite from work on the Surrey Street steps

Photos by Murray Schneider

work party. Diana Searce, Cook’s wife, joined them.

“What people have done here,” said Searce, “reaffirms everything we love about this neighborhood.”

King selected a pickaxe, and he and Cook began wrestling to extract Cape ivy roots from the roots of an ornamental hydrangea bush, an operation that ultimately was successful in keeping the bush but removing the interloper. “The deeper we go, the longer it’ll last,” said King.

By then 10 neighbors had joined the work party, the twentieth since the project began a year ago.

“Along with the steps,” said King, “the rest of the ground is terraced. It’ll help retain runoff and allow the rain to percolate—not to mention native plants supporting fauna.”

“Hey, Jasper,” said Ben Cook, as if on cue, “you want to see a millipede?”

Second grader Ananda White wheeled a wagonload of bark around the elbow in the steps and began removing bags.

Clara Basile’s house is adjacent to the stairs. “I’ve lived here for seven years,” she said, “and it was an overgrown mess of ivy and blackberry. No one maintained it. Now it’s like having a park in my own backyard.”

Not all the nearby residents join the chorus of unreserved approval. Some have enjoyed Penny Lane as a rustic respite from its urban surroundings for years, and were not thrilled to see

concrete-block retaining walls and the towering metal cone structure replace the natural landscape. “The steps are an improvement,” concedes one neighbor who bought his home on Surrey Street in 1979, back when Penny Lane was a nameless alley. “But it’s a shame to urbanize this nearly hidden little bit of nature.”

Trevor Curry, Basile’s neighbor, doesn’t hold that view. Curry, who has been on Surrey Street for three years, sees daylighting the lane as a positive change.

“Clara’s wall hasn’t been tagged since we started the steps,” he said, as he pulled out oxalis. “Besides, with the improved drainage, I can wear dress shoes when I walk my dog.”

“Early on I was concerned about water, particularly in a drought year,” said Norman Fineman, who has lived on Surrey Street for 32 years and questioned the amount of water needed for plants. When he was assured that the new shrubbery required only initial watering, Fineman was won over.

“It feels like the 1940s back here,” he said.

David Wong, who has lived on Chenery Street for 13 years, dug alongside Gregory Holmes, who’d been on Chenery for 20 years.

“This is my first time volunteering, and I had no idea Penny Lane existed,” said Wong. “I logged onto nextdoor.com and found out about the work party.”

“John Priola, who volunteers on the Bosworth Street median project, donated succulents, and Jeff Britt, who passed away last February, helped select plants and advised where they should be placed,” said King. “And we received advice from the Glen Park Garden Club. Connie Freeman, Jean Conner and Kay Hamilton Estey all contributed.”

An orchestra needs its conductor.

“I only met Adam through this project,” said Basile, one of the homeowners who contribute water from their own drip systems to irrigate plants in the sections of the rebuilt path outside their property lines. “He’s unbelievably dedicated, and he’s made this happen.”

“Adam has done us all a great favor,” chimed in Norman Fineman. “It’s his vision and his ability to coordinate that has gotten this project done.”

So why did an architect who’d spent his formative professional career in Manhattan become involved in directing all this volunteer labor for a year or more?

“Why not?”

He became more expansive.

“The longer answer is that it’s an opportunity for neighbors to get involved in their surroundings beyond what is within their own fence,” he said. “If we think differently about our neighborhood and treat it as though it is ours, why would anyone ask why we would want to improve Penny Lane?”

GPA Meeting Highlights

The refurbished Glen Park Recreation Center opened its doors on January 7 to welcome residents to the quarterly Glen Park Association meeting. The building has a new heating system (though it was hard to tell, as jackets and scarves still made the fashion statement of the evening); and spiffy plastic folding chairs, though not nearly enough to accommodate the crowd of 50 or more. Here are highlights of a packed agenda.

Diamond and Bosworth Intersection: A team from Public Works, MTA, and the Planning Department gave an update on the Diamond and Bosworth intersection improvement plan, part of the Glen Park Community Plan adopted in 2013. The original project was intended mainly to enhance pedestrian safety and traffic flow. Solutions include widening sidewalks and adding “bulb-outs” at each corner to shorten pedestrians’ crossing distances. Bus shelters will be installed at the three bus stops.

The project has been expanded to include some beautification elements. Street landscaping, benches and potted plants are now in the mix. Another feature will be decorative brick at each corner, matching the BART plaza brickwork.

The plantings on the Bosworth Street median strip between the Highway 280 overpass and Lippard Street will be rehabilitated. A “courtesy strip” bordered with brick will aid pedestrians waiting in the middle of the crossing. Based on an inspection by a City arborist, eight trees along the median will be removed and replaced.

The small vacant lot on the northwest corner will get a “gateway feature,” a sort of welcome-to-Glen-Park mix of planting, concrete and signage. DPW will install automatic irrigation systems, but residents and businesses will be encouraged to partner with City agencies to maintain the plantings.

Details of the Glen Park Community Plan are at <http://www.sf-planning.org/?page=1666>

Supervisor Scott Wiener: Supervisor Wiener listed some issues he’s been working on. City infrastructure is a paramount concern, including street lighting (see story on Page 5).

Wiener is looking at progress of infrastructure projects financed by a 2011 bond: “Deferred maintenance is huge!” These projects include road resurfacing, upgrading gas lines, and replacing sewer and water lines. A hot-button issue is the transference of responsibility

for maintaining street trees from the City to adjacent property owners. After systematic defunding of tree maintenance over the years, there are now only four or five arborists to tend to the City’s 105,000 street trees. It’s a terrible system that is unfair to owners, notes Wiener: “Trees are a big loser when it comes to other pressing issues—public safety, health, kids’ programs, etc.” He’s considering a parcel tax as a possible solution, which would need two-thirds voter approval.

Captain Tim Falvey, Commander of Ingleside Station: The big issue is pedestrian safety. Ingleside station is working on an educational campaign with SF State students, handing out flyers to pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Motorcycle police will saturate problem areas. Two weeks of education will be followed by enforcement.

Falvey gave a couple of safety tips: In the warm weather, don’t leave a second-story window open. And if you’re remodeling, don’t leave a lockbox on your door; thieves pry them open

Undergrounding Utilities: The San Francisco Coalition to Underground Utilities describes itself as “extremely grass roots.” It’s a partnership of various neighborhoods that feels that the only way to get all the utilities undergrounded is as a community of San Franciscans, not neighborhoods fighting each other.

Some 53 percent of the City’s utilities are now underground. That includes chunks of Glen Park, some of which were done when BART was put in.

The Coalition supports a citywide program to underground the remaining 47 percent. Because of the huge cost, at the present rate this would take 75 years. The Coalition wants to speed that up to 20 years.

What’s so bad about utility lines above ground? Visual clutter, depressed property values, decreased fire safety, increased power outages, for example.

Coalition representatives described a convoluted funding process in which charges on utility bills for the purpose of undergrounding were used for other purposes—and then these charges were borrowed against expected income 24 years into the future as well! They described a number of funding models and are working on a ballot initiative. They want the endorsement of our neighborhood and invited anyone interested to be a delegate to the Coalition. Contact them at www.sfuntergrounding.org.

A short, clever YouTube video is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySUrHykFrv0>.

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Volunteers' Unexpected Encounter: Homeless Camp

Friends of Glen Canyon Park volunteers Steve Uchida and Jim Hanratty were expecting a routine trek to the northern reaches of the canyon to stuff refuse bags with poison hemlock, Ehrharta grass, Scotch broom and other invasive weeds.

by
Murray
Schneider

Instead, on a foggy

day in late January, they helped remove 660 pounds of belongings from a homeless encampment hidden along Islais Creek near Turquoise Way.

“Good grief,” said Hanratty, who lives on Stillings Avenue, when he first encountered the vacated encampment.

The volunteers were instructed to wear protective gloves as they went

about their work. They were told not to hug the bags close to their bodies, for fear injuring themselves. Among the debris were hypodermic needles, kept in the sort of hazardous material container you’d find in a doctor’s office.

“How sad that anyone would choose to live in a thicket of willow by a creek,” said Uchida, who lives on Monterey Boulevard. “But when someone suddenly finds herself alone and homeless, it might make sense.”

An unknown percentage of the city’s homeless shun shelters or downtown sidewalks, instead seeking out remote enclaves in order to feel safe. Many of them suffer from mental illness, often complicated by drug and alcohol abuse. Golden Gate Park is a magnet for such encampments, but other open spaces, including Glen Canyon and the hillsides above the Bernal Cut have also been affected.

No one in authority knows the name of the woman who had been camping in Glen Canyon, or the reasons she sought refuge in the park. But she had left her possessions stashed in this hard-to-find spot, which she apparently

abandoned some time before. Given the number of suitcases filled with clothing, she probably swept her one-time home’s closets clean.

The camp was secreted far from the path that begins at the steps located on the 500 block of Turquoise Way. To create her jerry-built shelter, she’d made her way deep off the trail, through a labyrinth of corkscrewing arroyo willow, twisting through it day after day for no one knows how long.

Department of Recreation and Parks gardeners had discovered her makeshift shelter in December when they’d removed scrums of Cape ivy. Rec and Parks personnel had already spent 20 hours on the task before Uchida and Hanratty arrived to help.

In a job guaranteed take a toll on anyone’s morale, the volunteers helped two City gardeners carry her possessions out, load by load. They filled a waiting truck with a half-dozen suitcases, dozens of garbage bags, even an ice chest. When they were done, the driver would deliver the load to Recology’s Tunnel Road waste management facility.

“The department deals with an estimate of more than three tons of waste in our park system each week,” said Connie Chan, Rec and Parks’ deputy director of public affairs. “Such waste becomes the department’s responsibility to dispose of, in order to ensure the public’s health and safety.”

Back at the edge of the park, a wooden clothes hanger peeked forlornly from a sodden carton, curving up from a box of clothing like an exclamation point.

Anticipating the load would become heavier if it rained, the workers removed the debris as quickly as they could. Afterward, one of them began spreading willow boughs throughout the deserted campsite in an attempt to hide the area from further trespass.

The limbs were crusted with lichen that appeared soft and fuzzy. On frigid, wind-swept winter nights high above Glen Park, not even its velvety sheen could be mistaken for the safety net the woman had fallen through.

When they were done, the four workers stood, sipping water. A pair of red high heels, feminine and delicate, was visible in the truck’s flatbed.

Everyone looked, but nobody said anything. ❖



Left: Friends of Glen Canyon Park volunteer, Steve Uchida holds a carton of homeless possessions on a canyon trail leading to the Turquoise Way steps.

Below: some of the debris carried from the Glen Canyon homeless site, waits at a staging area, with Turquoise homes above.

Photos by Murray Schneider



Glen Park Festival Set for April 27

Volunteers Needed to Make the Annual Event a Success

Mark your calendar for the 16th annual Glen Park Festival, which will be held this year on Sunday, April 27.

The popular event, which organizers note has evolved into a folksy, spontaneous neighborhood get-together, offers music, dancing, food, crafts for sale, information booths highlighting community programs, carnival games, jumpy houses and a good dose of Glen Park spirit.

The festival, located in the heart of downtown Glen Park, gets going at 10 a.m. and shuts down at 4:30 p.m.

The Glen Park Festival also raises money for children's programs based in Glen Park. In 2013 it returned more than \$6,200 to a variety of non-profit organizations that serve kids in Glen Park and surrounding neighborhoods.

But the fabulous festival relies on volunteers to make it happen. So have

fun and make a difference in our community by signing up to be a volunteer. Organizers are using VolunteerSpot—an online signup and reminder tool—to organize the event.

Here's how it works, in three easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to the festival's invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/1Feerg>.

2. Enter your e-mail address. (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)

3. Sign up! Choose your spots—VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

For more information about the Glen Park Festival and the activities volunteers are needed to help with before, during and after the event, please visit <http://glenparkfestival.com/>.

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to windows on every side and a spectacular custom glass skylight. Period details include inlaid hardwood floors, beveled glass doors, picture molding and 9' coved ceilings.

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Big Crowd Turns Out for Playground Celebration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some older kids—10 and 11 years old—complained that there's not a lot in the playground geared for them. But time will tell whether they'll find new adventures in the landscaped areas, which include boulders, terraces and curvy paths.

After a lengthy community-driven planning process, construction on the playground, new tennis courts, pedestrian-friendly Elk Street entryway and paths began in January 2013.

Work was to have begun the previous October, but the project was put on hold after critics of the City's plan to remove 58 mature trees filed an appeal of the project's building permit. The Recreation and Park Department will be planting 163 new trees to replace those that were removed because they were deemed a public safety hazard or conflicted with the new park design.

Eventually, the appeal was rejected and the City won the right to proceed with the renovation project.

"It's a joyous day and a long time coming," Phil Ginsburg, general manager of the Recreation and Park Department, said at the dedication ceremony. "This is a special place, one that features the diversity of our park system combined with the diversity that's San Francisco."

His remarks were briefly interrupted by a heckler, still upset about the trees. The interruption didn't distract the crowd that showed up to celebrate the playground's rebirth. They were joined by District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, who represents Glen Park; Rec and Park commissioners and staff; representatives from San Francisco Public Works, which managed the construction project, and a host of community leaders, park supporters and neighbors.

Michael Rice, president of the Glen Park Association, helped usher through the transformation, and watched it come to life with the sounds of the children who joyfully were breaking in the new play space: "This new playground is a tribute to how a neighborhood, City agencies and elected officials can wade through a long and difficult process and reach a great outcome," he said.

And, as Wiener noted, there's more to come: "With the completion of the playground, we now look forward to continuing improvements to the Glen Park Recreation Center."



Above: Many neighbors flock to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for new playground

Right: Walkers enjoy the new Elk Street entrance to Glen Canyon Park. Improvements include wider paths, landscaping, pedestrian-scale lighting, and a safe and convenient vehicle turnout for passenger dropoffs and pickups.

Photos by Michael Waldstein and Liz Mangelsdorf



In 2012, City voters approved another parks bond, which provides \$12 million to renovate the adjacent Glen Canyon Park rec center, including upgrades to the gym and auditorium, new ground-floor restrooms and community rooms. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2015.

Cecile Puretz, 35, grew up in a house overlooking the park and spent her childhood playing at the old playground and exploring the canyon. She was back on reopening day to meet a friend who had her two children, ages 1 and 6, in tow.

"I feel really excited to see a lot of

young families using the new playground, but I'm nostalgic for what it was," said Puretz, who now lives in the Portola neighborhood. "Glen Canyon is not the wild, free-spirited park of when I was young. It was our secret hangout. Now, the secret is out and people know about it." ❖



Author Isabel Gordon on the new climbing structure.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

New Playground: A Kid's View

I grew up going to the Glen Park playground, and I was sad when it closed. But I was excited to see the new one open. If the old one was going to be knocked down, it's important that something replaces it. It's important for kids to have playgrounds, somewhere they can get their energy out and have fun.

I went to the new playground the first day it opened, and again the next day. I feel really happy about it because there are swings and climbing places, for little kids and bigger kids.

I like the big kids' climbing structure best—there's a hammock and a slide, a place to sit, and you can climb on top of it. There's a rope ladder, too. You can use the ropes for monkey bars, but that hurts your hands. There are monkey bars at the playground, but they're for little kids. I wish they had them for bigger kids. Monkey bars are fun to play on, they make you strong, and can help you get to the Olympics if you want to do gymnastics. The old playground had monkey bars—they were high, a challenge, fun, and if you pushed yourself, you could do them.

The new playground has new slides, but they're not as fast or as long as the old one that was on a big hill. I miss that slide.

I like the new ground—it's really fun to jump, jump, jump on.

One thing I noticed about the new playground is the sand. There's a sand-box area, but already the kids brought a lot of the sand to the new slide; it helps you go down faster. So even though the sand started out in one place, the kids

chose to bring it somewhere else, where they wanted it. It's their way of saying, "This is our playground, and this is how we want it."

The new playground has swings, but they're really low. The big kids like me like higher swings because they feel like you're flying and a little bit scary, which is really fun. "I can do this, I can do this," you say.

On a scale of 1 to 10, I would give the new playground an 8. There are a lot of fun and new things to do. But as an older kid, I wouldn't give it a 10. Maybe if I was younger I would. ❖

Isabel Gordon, age 8, is a playground enthusiast who lives in Glen Park.



Kids and adults enjoy the new slide.

Photo by Michael Waldstein

GLEN PARK RECREATION CENTER - SPRING 2014 PROGRAMS

TUESDAY

10–11:30 am 3/18-5/27: Class Free, Senior Sing, ages 55 and up (Auditorium)

6–8 pm 3/18-5/20: Class 35301, Girls Volleyball (Gym)

7–8 pm 3/18-5/06: Class 33327, Tai Chi - Adult (Auditorium)

9 am–5:30 pm & 8:15–8:45 pm: Basketball Open Gym

WEDNESDAY

10–10:45 am 3/26-5/14: Class 35242, Tot Picasso, (Auditorium)

11:15 am–noon 3/26-5/14: Class 35243, Tot Picasso (Auditorium)

5:30–8:45 pm 3/26-5/14: Class free Ping Pong Time (Auditorium)

1–3 pm 3/26-5/28: Class 35122 Shape Up Seniors (Auditorium)

6:30–9 pm 3/19-5/21: Class 34925, Men's Volleyball, ages 18 and up (Gym)

9am–6 pm: Basketball Open Gym

THURSDAY

4–5:30 pm 3/20-5/15: Class 35368, Girls' Basketball, (Gym)

5:30–7 pm 3/20-5/15: Class 35369, Girls' Basketball, (Gym)

5–7 pm 4/17-5/15: Class 35041, Personal Development Youth (Auditorium)

1:30–3pm pm 3/20-4/17: Class Free Beginning Adult Tango (Auditorium)

5–7 pm 3/20-5/08: Class 35326, Yoga Adult (Auditorium)

9 am–3:30 pm & 7–8:45pm: Basketball Open Gym

FRIDAY

10–11 am 5–7 pm 3/28-5/16: Class 35307, The World - Tots (Auditorium)

4–5 pm 3/21-5/16: Class 34905 Girls' Volleyball-Beginning, (Gym)

5–6 pm 3/21-5/16: Class 34906 Girls' Volleyball-Intermediate, (Gym)

5:30–8:45 pm 3/21-5/16: Class free Ping Pong Time (Auditorium)

9 am–3:30 pm & 7–8:45pm: Basketball Open Gym

SATURDAY

2–4 pm 4/5 – 4/26: Class 35159 Photography Adult, (Auditorium)

9 am–4:45 pm: Basketball Open Gym

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♦ IN GLEN CANYON PARK ♦

Rain was light this fall and winter, with two isolated storms in the fall, but Glen Canyon Park got a good drenching in early February and early March. During a lull in the rains, a flock of about 20 gnatcatchers passed through my yard here in the Glen Park neighborhood in mid-afternoon. These birds, light gray on the underside with darker gray wings and heads, prefer high shrub-like areas and sloping locations. They stayed for 10 or 15 minutes, hopping around a ceanothus and a holly-leaf cherry, with their tails whipping back and forth, up and down. They pecked around and under leaves, presumably looking for insects. After a quarter hour, they all drifted off.

In the morning of Feb. 7, when the rain was light, I walked through Glen Canyon Park to see the construction progress on the park renovation. I started out by walking up the hill past a row of new sidewalk trees, then down the stairs past the buckeye tree, which has been growing at the top of Elk Street for many years and was separated from construction by a fence. It was beginning to show leaves again in preparation for spring.

It's fortunate for all in the Bay Area that rain started again in February, to reduce the dangers of drought, but it was

also beneficial for the plants and animals in Glen Canyon Park. The day the rain began, park workers were planting some of the thousands of new plants, including bushes, trees and shrubs. I passed by some oak trees near the Rec Center, which needed water from the rain to help them grow. The creek had more water running through it, and the birds clustering near it appreciated the natural site.

A red-throated hummingbird perched for a long time on top of the tallest twig of one bare tree, showing a flash of iridescent ruby coloring as it turned its head to look across the park and occasionally darted off to search for food. Townsend's warblers also flew nearby in the trees, gray with yellow feathers around their heads and a black band across their eyes. They prefer to congregate in riparian thickets and streamside willows, which makes the park's Islais Creek an attractive place for them. Pink flowering currants and black-crowned sparrows were also on view.

While going through the path overlooking the creek across from the Rec Center, I saw a new redwood tree that had just been planted, to add to the over 100 new trees that will be in the park after the renovations are completed. ❖

Monika E. Lewis keeps us informed about our neighborhood park.

Glen Park Neighbors Turned Off by Dark Streets

Lately in Glen Park and all over the city, discussions have lit up about street lighting. A San Francisco Examiner “City Insider” column by Marisa Largos last fall had this snarky opener: “The Board of Supervisors must be back in session—Supervisor Scott Wiener has called for a hearing on streetlights.”

Sarcasm aside, Glen Park neighbors making their way home through residential streets can expect a patchwork of dark, dim or flickering areas and scantily placed lighting along the way. Safety awareness and precautions are ways to avoid becoming a victim of a crime or a hazardous sidewalk.

A bit of delving into the issue of street lighting in San Francisco reveals a tangled morass of a system, controlled by both the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and PG&E, with a lack of coordination and funding that literally leaves a lot of people in the dark.

The SFPUC owns and maintains 60 percent of the City’s streetlights, compared with PG&E’s 40 percent. The rule of thumb is, if the light is on a concrete pole, it’s a City light; if it’s on a wooden pole, it’s PG&E’s. In District 8, which includes Glen Park, the SFPUC is responsible for half of the streetlights.

Most lighting in the city, and all of the lighting in Glen Park, is roadway lighting. Its purpose is to light the way for vehicular traffic. Pedestrian lighting is placed less than eighteen feet high and supplements street lighting levels.

Wiener did, in fact, hold a hearing on street lighting in December 2013. It “illuminated” many of the challenges and efforts being made to keep San Francisco’s street lights on. The most telling statistic to emerge concerns the allocation of resources. Of the current capital budget of \$11.5 million, around \$11.2 million is going to the Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit Project. Other street light costs, including repairs, are left with a whopping \$389,000. The top priority in funding repairs is in high crime areas due to poor lighting.

The hearing made it clear that the current system of dual ownership and control of lighting in the city is confusing, inefficient and counterproductive, and that one entity should have full responsibility.

Some hopeful and positive steps are



Streetlights shine on Diamond Street; other streets remain in the dark.

Photos by Liz Mangelsdorf

being taken. At the end of 2014, the SFPUC will begin replacing 18,500 City-owned “cobra head” streetlights with ultra-efficient light-emitting diodes (LED) fixtures. They direct the light downward where it’s most needed, rather than diffusing it in many directions (“sky glow”) like most of the current lighting. The new system will have remote monitoring and control, use 50 percent less energy and be almost maintenance-free for 15–20 years. Construction is scheduled to be finished by December 2016, at a cost of \$16 million.

The SFPUC has developed a 311 system for reporting issues with streetlights. PG&E has coordinated with it since 2011. There’s a Smartphone application, StreetLightsSF, which automatically reports the problem to 311. The app can then be used to track the status of repairs. According to the City, in 2013 the SFPUC took just under six days to close a complaint, PG&E just under seven days. Emergency repairs have a 24-hour timeline. But several people at the hearing differed strongly with those figures, complaining about protracted lack of response to outages.

This year Supervisor Wiener secured a commitment from the mayor and the SFPUC to fund \$9 million over the next two years, to assess and address capital needs of the city street lighting system.

Street lighting guidelines are detailed in the Better Streets Plan, an overall urban livability document adopted in San Francisco in 2010. It makes recommendations on lighting issues such as location and spacing, light direction, levels and uniformity.

A lighting subcommittee of the Glen Park Association Traffic and Safety Committee did an informal census of problem areas in the neighborhood. Under the leadership of Carolyn Deacy, GPA vice president, a dozen or so locations were identified in which streetlights were out, flickering, or absent but needed. Another common problem was tree canopy blocking the light from functioning streetlights.

Deacy reported all the findings to 311 and the committee did a repeat visit. Lights that had been out were fixed. However, trees that were blocking light had not yet been trimmed. Armed with the data, heavy coats and flashlights, the lighting subcommittee led a nighttime neighborhood trek with Supervisor Wiener and representatives of SFPUC and PG&E. They pointed out areas where more light is needed and where the tree canopy needed trimming.

Agency representatives took down notes for future action. (An update on repairs will be posted on the GPA website as soon as available.) One issue they talked about was neighbors’ buy-in to

having more lighting on their streets. It’s not a slam dunk. Some people are bothered by streetlights shining into their homes at night (“light trespass”), disturbing their privacy and rest. Before any lights are added, there would be notification to the neighbors and community meetings.

The bottom line, says Barbara Hale of SFPUC, is that “When you live in a city, the safety and welfare of you and your neighbors has to come first.” Hilary Schiraldi, of the lighting subcommittee, got some current crime statistics from Falvey, commander of the SFPD’s Ingleside Station. There has been an uptick in property crimes, especially burglaries and thefts from vehicles, in the past year. Falvey attributes this in part to early release of property offenders from prison, who then re-offend.

Pedestrian lighting at the street level is a long way off in residential areas such as Glen Park. Priority is given to high pedestrian volume corridors such as busy commercial areas. In the meantime, keeping a porch light on and carrying a flashlight can help keep Glen Park safe.

Information on street lighting process: SFPUC Power Enterprise Utility Services Group: <http://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=391>.

Safety information: sfsafe.org

♦ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS ♦

Glen Park Elementary School

The last day of school will be May 30, which means—though it's hard to believe—that we are nearing the end of the 2013-14 school year. It's been a transformative year at Glen Park Elementary.

The garden we planted last summer is flourishing. Our students love their lesson time in the garden, and have harvested broccoli, snap peas and kale, among other crops. We have 18 new trees planted on our school grounds, thanks to our school community's fundraising efforts and the enthusiasm and labor of school volunteers, in conjunction with Friends of the Urban Forest.

In the Brompton Avenue yard, you can see the outline of a new mural that will beautify our school's exterior. The mural was designed by G.K. Callahan, from SFArtsED. It will depict nature scenes from around Glen Park. Our students are excited to help paint!

On March 3, Glen Park School students joined thousands of other school children across the country in observing Read Across America Day, which is a celebration of the love of reading as well as Dr. Seuss's birthday. Volunteer readers, including grandparents, parents, coworkers, neighbors, and friends, came into our 18 classrooms to read to our kids.

Our community is integral to the success of Glen Park School. Thank you for all of your support. If you've

donated to a fundraiser, or came to read to a class on Read Across America Day; if you've planted trees with us, or plan to cheer our kids on as they run around the block during the third annual Shape Up Walk on March 28; if you're going to stop by our booth at the Glen Park Festival on April 27; or if you've just slowed down to let our students cross the street, thank you.

A special note for incoming families: Welcome! If you and your new kindergartner will be joining our Glen Park School community in the fall, you'll be hearing from us about summer play dates—a great way to meet other Glen Park families—as well as other welcoming activities we have planned. Information about these activities will also be posted at glenparkschool.org. We look forward to meeting you. ♦

Amy St. Clair diLaura is president of the Glen Park Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization. For school event updates visit www.glenparkschool.org.

Sunnyside Elementary School

The end of 2013 brought some wonderful news for Sunnyside Elementary School. We were awarded a \$15,000 Quality Teacher and Education Act Impact award. This award honors our recent gains in test scores—gains that were seen in all segments of our school community. The award particularly recognizes Sunnyside's work in closing the achievement gap for Latino and English-learner students.

Winning this grant made us eligible to apply for the honor of being designated a California Distinguished School. We are one of only eight elementary schools in San Francisco that are eligible for this honor this year. We submitted our application in December—fingers crossed!

As we move into the second semester of the school year, Sunnyside is getting ready for some big changes. Our long-awaited renovation will begin this spring. Funded by a 2011 bond measure, the renovation will give us some much-needed additional space while preserving the historic

character of our lovely 1920s building. The interior of the existing structure will be updated, and a brand new structure, containing classrooms and a new library, will be built on the yard to replace the “temporary” bungalows we have been living with for years.

Our schoolyard will also be leveled, and areas for playing sports added. The construction process will no doubt bring its challenges, but at the end we are going to have a wonderful new facility in which generations of San Francisco children can learn and grow. Thank you, San Francisco voters, for supporting these much needed upgrades! You can learn more about our renovation by visiting our website at www.sunnysidek5.org/renovation

We held our Parents' Night Out, a major fundraiser for our school, at Liberty Cafe on Feb. 22. Liberty very generously donated space and a portion of the evening's proceeds to our PTA. Many local businesses showed their support for public education by providing items for our silent auction. We would like to thank the following

business for supporting us: Wonder-sitter child care, Canyon Market, the 49ers Foundation, the Golden State Warriors, Anchor Oyster Bar, Bi-Rite Market, Mrs. Meyers cleaning products, Celsius and Beyond science program, Chloe's Closet, Destination Science, Foreign Cinema, Fresca restaurant, Gallery of Jewels, Jungle Red salon, Kokkari restaurant, the Lawrence Hall of Science, Osha Thai, Pacific Catch, Tutors R Us and Vino Rosso wine bar. The support of community businesses like these means so much to us, and is a big part of why San Francisco is a great place to raise kids! ♦

Jennifer Helton is president of the Sunnyside Elementary School Parent-Teachers Association.

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Congregation Proves There is a Free Lunch

When Milton Friedman, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, titled his 1975 book *There's No Such Thing as a Free Lunch*, he hadn't reckoned with the folks at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

On the first Wednesday of each month, neighbors age 55 and over gather at St. Aidan's, on Goldmine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard, for free lunch and conversation. Some are members of the congregation, including most of the volunteers who prepare and serve the meals. Others rarely set foot in a sanctuary, but are drawn by the spirit of community that the monthly meal provides. It's strictly drop-in, with no reservations. And no sermons.

"Diamond Diners" resulted from a conversation the rector, Rev. Tommy Dillon, had last fall with Jeanette Oliver, manager of the Diamond Heights Shopping Center across the street. She wished there were activities in the neighborhood for seniors, whose primary social outlet had been hanging out at Creighton's Bakery (not that there's anything wrong with that!).

St. Aidan's thriving weekly Diamond Heights Food Pantry provides groceries on Fridays for clients in the 94131 Zip code. Senior meals seemed a logical new avenue of outreach to older people who live in areas around the church, including Glen Park. So last October the first sit-down lunch was served, to unanimous approbation.

Word-of-mouth brought more diners in following months, and the delicious home-cooked (well, church-cooked) fare has kept them coming back. Each month's menu is planned by a volunteer, prepared by a crew of helpers and dished up cafeteria-style by the kitchen volunteers. A particular favorite was the jambalaya cooked up recently by Rev. Tommy, a Louisiana native.

St. Aidan's would like more neighbors to participate in Diamond Diners, and they hope people who read this story will tell their over-55 friends and relatives about the lunches.

Diamond Diners and the Food Pantry both provide an added bonus: The parish nurse, Susan Spencer, checks blood pressure for anyone interested.

Diverse Community Programs

The St. Aidan's congregation also sponsors or provides space for a variety of other community programs. Its calendar for the first week in March included Sacred Cocktails, an LGBT outreach program in the Castro; eve-



Diamond Diners enjoy their lunch at St. Aidan's Church.

Courtesy of St. Aidan's

ning 12-step meetings in the Parish Hall; a morning meditation group and morning yoga classes; Overeaters Anonymous, which meets at 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday in the Parish Hall; and a new Tuesday evening 12-step program, Facing Fear Anonymous, for people whose lives are impacted by fear, anxiety or worry.

The church's Emergency Preparedness Committee meets monthly. Its members participate in the Diamond Heights Emergency Preparedness Workgroup, which since 2008 has been planning for neighborhood cooperation in the aftermath of a local or

regional emergency or disaster.

Benefit performances are regularly held at St. Aidan's, too, including two in March 2014: "A Gay Old Time!" with Poppy Champlin, on March 22, and "Brass Gumbo," a New Orleans-style brass band and gumbo buffet, with raffle and silent and live auctions. Proceeds from the benefits help fund St. Aidan's own programs and also help support numerous community ministries.

For information about St. Aidan's and its programs, visit www.saintaidan.org, call the church at 285-9540, or check the Community Calendar on the last page of this newspaper. ❖

Glen Park's Newest Family Restaurant: China House

A couple of days before the opening of China House on Valentine's Day, a young girl and her father peeked through the brown paper covering the windows to see what was going on inside.

Owner Jerry Luo opened the door and invited them in to take a look. As the man explained that they lived up Diamond Street and had been watching the remodeling progress, his daughter wandered around the seating space near the window where steam tables of carry-out food once stood.

Art for the freshly painted walls was still in its packaging, and tables and chairs were arranged haphazardly as noises of final preparations emerged from the kitchen of downtown Glen Park's newest restaurant.

They left, promising to come back soon. Less than a week later, Luo could be seen speeding around the now-orderly dining room greeting new customers from Glen Park and beyond, delivering dishes and clearing plates, checking with diners to make sure they were enjoying their meals, keeping his eye on the staff while they learned to work together as a team.

Hong Sing, the long-time tenant at 2794 Diamond St., closed just after Thanksgiving last fall. While it offered table service, its take-out fare, all visible from the steamy window, was popular with nearby residents (and cab drivers). Many of the same items can be found at Tung Sing, owned by Howard Tong, in Noe Valley. He is the older brother of Eric Tong, who was co-owner of Hong Sing. Tung Sing is located at

4015 24th St., near Noe Street.

Luo, who owns another restaurant called China House in Half Moon Bay (but is not associated with another place with the same name near Fisherman's Wharf), saw an ad for the vacant storefront in a Chinese-language newspaper and decided to take the opportunity.

"I liked the neighborhood; I like this location," he said, adding that he has lived for more than 20 years in the Sunset District.

China House is open daily for lunch and dinner, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 9:30 p.m., respectively, during the week, and from noon to 9:30 p.m. on weekends. The menu features Mandarin and Szechuan dishes.

Luo listed some of his favorites: hot braised fish, crisp duck and green onion pancakes. Some dim

sum-style items appear on the appetizers menu, and beer and wine are offered. Carry-out food and delivery service are available.

Luo, a thin, wiry man with spiky black hair that he confines under a baseball cap during off hours, continues the Glen Park tradition of restaurateurs from other countries who fit right into our neighborhood. (See Glen Park News, Summer 2010 issue.)

A native of Xian, China, he arrived in the Bay Area in 1991, when he was 22. He and his wife, Selina, who is also from China—although they met here—each has a child from a previous marriage attending the University of California—her daughter at Berkeley, his son at Davis.

Are they likely to follow him into the restaurant business? Luo laughed and shook his head. "I don't think so," he said. "Too many hours." ❖

◆ DIGGING THE DIRT ◆

News from the Glen Park Garden Club

Looking for plants that will flourish in the drought? Succulents may be your answer. They need to be planted in a sun-to-part-shade setting, and given a little water about once a month. They are easy to plant and to maintain.

Strolling through Glen Park and nearby Sunnyside, you will discover thriving succulents along the median strip of Bosworth lead-

ing to Elk Street, along Monterey Boulevard leading to the freeway, and in the garden of the Sunnyside Conservatory on Monterey. A new community garden on Penny Lane, between Surrey and Sussex Streets, features succulents and native plants, as does the little Village Garden on Diamond Street, just up from Chenery Street. You can also see a wide variety of succulent plants in the San Francisco Botanical Garden in the Arboretum of Golden Gate Park.

You may have heard of common succulents such as agave, aloe vera, sedum and yucca. There are many others, so I will share some of my favorites, which do well in Glen Park. Aeoniums range from branching forms to groundcovers. For height and drama, I like Aeonium atropurpureum "Zwartkop," with its deep maroon leaves and yellow cones of starry flowers. Aeonium decorum tricolor will light up your garden with its red-edged leaves variegating to yellow centers. Aeonium subplanum look like big happy faces, with large rosettes of green leaves.

Agaves add a sculptural quality to your garden. Agave attenuata has soft, broad blue-green leaves. Agave parryi's rosette of light blue-gray leaves and black terminal spines somewhat resembles large artichokes.

Aloes are familiar because of aloe vera's healing qualities. Aloe arborescens forms large colonies and sports orange tubular flowers, attracting hummingbirds. Aloe plicatilis looks like a spreading fan and has red flowers.

Beschorneria yuccoides makes a lovely centerpiece for your garden, with strap-like, glaucous blue-green leaves and showy green flowers with pink bracts.

For a California native, you could plant Dudleya farinosa, which will do particularly well on a rocky incline.

Echeverias are spectacular in their variety of foliage, from wavy-edged leaves looking like sea creatures to fuzzy leaves that feel soft as a cat's ear. The leaf colors can be blue-green, red, lilac, green, and even dark purple. Their bell-shaped flowers range from



Drought-tolerant Agave attenuata at San Francisco Botanical Garden.

Photo by Stan Shebs

coral to red, orange, or yellow.

A favorite groundcover is Euphorbia myrsinites, with blue-green leaves spiraling around the stem and yellow-green flowers in spring, which will self-sow. Another groundcover is Senecio madraliscae with glaucous blue, cylindrical leaves.

Sedums are succulents that breathe only at night, thereby losing less water than most plants. Sedum mexicanum brightens your garden with light yellow-green foliage. Sedum treleasei has thick, pale blue-green leaves. Sedum decumbens will form a dense groundcover of clear yellow-green foliage with yellow flowers.

Sempervivum—"always alive" in Latin—is an aptly named succulent genus, as we think of plants that thrive in drought. Their dense rosettes of green, red or bronze foliage form offsets that can be detached and planted, hence the common name "hens and chicks."

There are three reference books to which I keep returning: *Succulents for the Contemporary Garden*, by Yvonne Cave, with great photos and cultivation advice; *Succulents—The Illustrated Dictionary*, by Maurizio Sajeve and Mariangela Costanzo, for its thoroughness; and *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region*, put out by the East Bay Municipal Utility District, for inspiration, beautiful photography and solid information.

Succulents are very forgiving plants that always look great. You can plant them and be confident that you will have a stunning garden in our time of drought. ♦

Connie A Freeman is the Glen Park Garden Club columnist. E-mail her at khesty@mindspring.com. If you are interested in becoming a Glen Park Garden Club member, contact nanw90@gmail.com.



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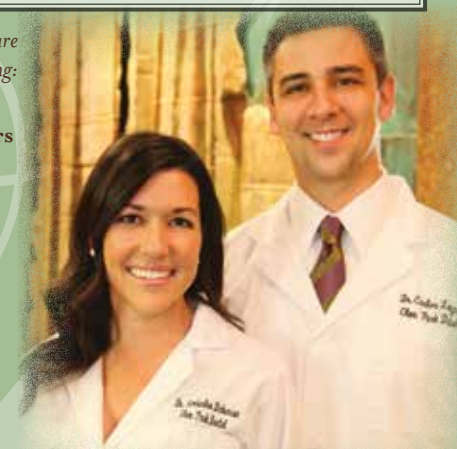
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◆ GLEN PARK REAL ESTATE ◆

Did you know the April 1906 San Francisco earthquake sent refugees scrambling to Glen Park and other

outer neighborhoods for safety? Glen Park suffered less earthquake damage than downtown, and residents freely opened their homes to refugees. The Glen Park playground became a city of tents. The streetcar passenger waiting house at Castro and Chenery streets sheltered the homeless. Each day people waited in front of the relief station at the old shoe factory: one day for bread, another for meat, and so on.

Many refugees were won over by friendly villagers and impressed by the seismic safety of the area, and chose to remain in Glen Park. In October 1906, the *Examiner* advertised Glen Park Homes: lots from \$500 upwards, 10 percent per casa, \$10 per month. To this day, some residents of Glen Park are children of the 1906 earthquake settlers. Thanks to historian Mae Silver for that interesting fact!

As you can see by the chart on homes sold recently, sales did cool off a bit over the holidays. Some of it was the natural holiday slowdown, but some was because list prices caught up to sale prices. There wasn't the same fervor of overbidding that had been going on during the first three quarters of 2013. Sales prices are now much closer to list prices, with fewer offers per house.

Here's your Glen Park market update: From Nov. 4, 2013, through Jan. 28, 2014, there were 13 single-family homes, one condo and three two-unit buildings sold in our neighborhood. The average sale price for the single-family homes was \$1,427,500. In the last three months, the median list price in Glen Park was \$1,392,000 with the median sale price being \$1,407,500. Sale prices averaged about 4 percent over asking price, which is significantly down from the 15 to 20 percent over asking from January through October 2013. It will be interesting to see how the first half of 2014 shapes up. I predict things will remain pretty steady, with a

little more inventory coming on the market and sales prices that show a more modest increase.

One reader, David, asked me to write about the types of foundations of local homes and when is a good time to do work on your foundation.

First, most homes currently have concrete slab foundations, which is still the current standard. Some older homes in the neighborhood were built with brick foundations. These are the ones that people are most concerned about. Brick was the standard foundation type before the 1906 earthquake. It was found that in the harder-hit areas of the city that the brick, and more precisely the mortar, could crumble in a major quake.

There are brick foundations still standing more than a hundred years after the 1906 quake, so it really does depend on where your home is located. We are fortunate to live in an area that is primarily bedrock under our homes and is less susceptible to major earth movements.

There are ways to shore up brick foundations if they are still in decent shape. If you run your finger between the bricks and the mortar crumbles, you should have a structural engineer or construction company inspect your foundation. On concrete foundations, extensive cracking or any sort of bowing of the concrete is a sign that you should have your foundation inspected.

If your foundation was not inspected when you purchased your home, I highly recommend having it

done. We had ours inspected before we bought our house, and it has given us a great deal of comfort to know its condition and what we can do to preserve it.

One thing you should do, if you haven't already, is to take steps to keep vegetation and moisture away from the foundation. Many of us with houses on hills or

slopes have dirt and ivy that build up along the foundation, and we need to make sure we periodically clean it up. If you are interested in an inspection, I can recommend several reputable inspectors.

Recent Glen Park Sales

ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
191 Burnside Ave.	Nov 13, 2013	20	\$869,000	\$1,050,000	120.83%
831 Chenery St.	Nov 14, 2013	60	\$599,000	\$615,000	102.53%
161 Arbor St.	Nov 14, 2013	20	\$1,389,000	\$1,405,000	101.15%
186 Fairmount St.	Nov 22, 2013	107	\$1,385,000	\$1,300,000	93.86%
56 Chilton Ave	Nov 22, 2013	10	\$2,100,000	\$2,175,000	103.57%
574 Congo St.	Nov 27, 2013	29	\$1,395,000	\$1,400,000	100.36%
556 Chenery St.	Dec 3, 2013	29	\$1,629,000	\$1,750,000	107.43%
128 Laidley St.	Dec 3, 2013	0	\$1,790,000	\$1,790,000	100.00%
1829 Church St.	Dec 4, 2013	26	\$895,000	\$1,425,000	159.22%
21 Laidley St.	Dec 5, 2013	57	\$1,599,000	\$1,410,000	88.18%
35 Conrad St.	Jan 2, 2014	103	\$1,200,000	\$1,160,000	96.67%
1753 Noe St.	Jan 9, 2014	17	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	100.00%
2 Arbor St.	Jan 31, 2014	63	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	100.00%

Condominiums

76 Wilder St.	Nov 8, 2013"	14	\$799,000	\$910,000	113.89%
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Two-Unit Buildings

26-26A Chenery St.	Dec 11, 2013	19	\$999,000	\$1,150,000	115.12%
1159-61 Bosworth St	Dec 13, 2013	76	\$1,099,000	\$1,150,000	104.64%
2730-32 Diamond St.	Jan 16, 2014"	36	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	100.00%

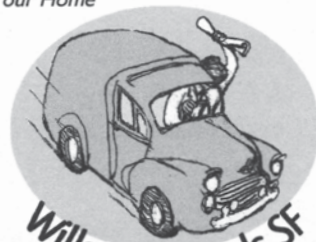
DOM - Days on market / SP/LP - % over list price

Thanks again to David for the question about foundations. Please send me any questions you have about specific issues or suggest topics that interest you as a reader. You can send any questions or topic requests to news@glenparkassociation.org, marc@opni.com, or The Glen Park News, 2912 Diamond Street #407, San Francisco, CA 94131.

I hope you are having a good start to the year, and let's all do a little rain dance to help with the water shortage. ♦

Marc Dickow, a Glen Park resident, is a Realtor-Broker associate at Vanguard Properties. He can be reached at marc@opni.com, or 722-4018. His website is www.altrockrealtor.com.

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♦ COMMUNITY CALENDAR ♦

* Glen Park Association *

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

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 7 pm, at the Recreation Center in Glen Canyon Park.

The Agenda includes:

- * Updates from Supervisor Scott Wiener and Captian Tim Falvey, SFPD Ingleside Station.
- * SF Public Utilities Commission presentation on water and sewer infrastructure plans & user rates.
- * Recreation and Park Department update on Glen Park Recreation Center building renovation plans.
- * PUC presentation of a plan to install new lighting in Glen Park.

* Glen Park Recreation Center *

Spring 2014 recreation programs began in March and run through May. The schedule is on Page 13.

- * Sunday & Monday: Closed.
- * Tuesday: 9 am–5:30 pm, & 8:15–8:45 pm.
- * Wednesday: 9 am–6 pm.
- * Thursday & Friday: 9 am–3:30 pm, & 7 pm–8:45 pm.
- * Saturday: 9 am–4:45 pm.

Activities can affect times; to verify hours, call 337-4705.

* Glen Park Festival *

Sunday, April 27, 10 am–4:30 pm, Diamond and Wilder streets in downtown Glen Park. Music, dancing, food, booths, games, schmoozing, fund-raising for kids' programs. Volunteers are needed to help in advance and during the annual street fair. See the story on Page 11.

□ Friends of Glen Canyon Park □

The Friends are volunteers who help maintain and improve our neighborhood park. To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park, contact Jean Conner at 584-8576. For information about Friends' activities, visit <http://bit.ly/glencanyonpark>.

Meet behind the Rec Center for these activities in the Canyon:

Third Saturday of each month, 9 am–noon: Meetings and Plant Restoration Work Parties. Tools, and instruction are provided.

Every Wednesday, 9 am–noon: Weekly Work Parties.

Volunteers are also welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department's Natural Areas Program staff. For information, contact David Burnet at 871-0203 or e-mail david.burnet@sfgov.org.

* Glen Park School *

Friday, March 28, 1 pm, 151 Lippard Street: Third annual Shape-Up Walk. The community is encouraged to cheer students on as they run around the block to promote fitness. Participating children, parents and volunteers should check in by 12:45 pm.

Monday, March 31–Friday April 4: Spring Break.

* 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 6 for more information. A full schedule is always available at the library, and all programs are free.

Following are a few of the events planned this winter.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- * Every Tuesday, 10:30 am: Baby Rhymes & Playtime. Rhymes, stories and fingerplays for ages birth–15 months.
- * Mondays, March 10 & April 14, 10:30–11 am, Preschool Videos: For ages 3–5.
- * First Fridays, 4 pm, for ages 6 and older. Next dates: Apr.4, May 2, Jun. 6.

TEEN PROGRAMS

- * Friday, April 18, 3:30 pm: Great Teen Book Swap: For ages 12–18.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 pm: Brain Fitness - A fascinating talk about the brain.

FOR ALL AGES

- * Second Tuesdays, 3–4 pm: eReader Drop-In.
- * Second Wednesdays, 4:30–6 pm: Knitting Circle. All skill levels are welcome; presented by RuthKnits.
- * Saturday, April 12, 3 pm: DIY Tote Bag. Space is limited; please sign up in advance at the information desk or by calling 355-2858.
- * Tuesday, April 29, 10:30 am: Jim Stevens. Celebrating Month of the Young Child, the folksinger returns to perform songs for the whole family.
- * Wednesday, April 30, 6:30 pm: Sing-along with Tim Holt. Folk music for all ages.

* 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. Timothy Falvey, 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: April 15, May 20, June 17.

* St. Aidan's Episcopal Church *

St Aidan's, 101 Gold Mine Dr. at Diamond Heights Boulevard, hosts yoga, AA, Al-Anon, Weight Watchers and other community groups. For details, visit www.saintaidan.org or call 285-9540, and see our story on Page 16.

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

First Wednesday of every month, noon–1 pm: Diamond Diners, a monthly free lunch and social hour for seniors over age 55 who live in the 94131 zip code. Reservations are not required.

Saturday, March 29, 6 pm: Brass Gumbo, a taste of New Orleans in S.F. This fund-raiser for St. Aidan's programs features gumbo, the Saint Gabriel's Celestial Brass Band, and live and silent auctions. \$25–\$50, sliding scale. Tickets at Eventbrite.com, or call the church office, 285-9540.

* Glen Park Farmers Market *

Every Sunday, March 30–Nov. 23, 10 am–2 pm, BART parking lot, Bosworth & Arlington streets. The 2014 season promises more events and activities, new and returning vendors with great fresh produce and comestibles.

* School of the Arts *

Throughout the school year, students present music, dance and theater performances as well as visual arts exhibits, all open to the public. There's a modest charge for most events, and free parking in the lot off O'Shaughnessy Boulevard. For event information, visit sfsota.org.

* 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 bookstore open. Tax-deductible contributions to the Cultural Legacy Project help keep cultural programming alive in Glen Park.

Check online for the latest information at www.birdbeckett.com, pick up a monthly events schedule at the bookshop, or call 586-3733. Shop hours are 11 am–7 pm Saturday–Thursday, 11 am–9 pm Friday (hours are often extended on evenings of events).

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Thursday, March 27, 7 pm: "The Life & Art of Vincent Van Gogh" - an illustrated lecture by artist Marlene Aron.
- Sunday, April 6, 2 pm: Poets of the Finishing Line Press: Judy Bebelaar, Raffi Del Bourgo, Ellaraine Lockie, Kathleen

McClung, Layra Schulkind, Zara Raab.

- Sunday, April 13, 2 pm: PEN/Oakland writers Floyd Salas, Claire Ortalda, Tony R. Rodriguez, Kirk Lumpkin, Judith Cody, Sharon Doubiago and John Curl.
- Saturday, April 19, 7 pm: Daisy Rockwell reads from her new novel, *Taste*.
- Wednesday, April 23, 7:30 pm: Jeff Johnson presents his book, *Designing with the Mind in Mind: Simple Guide to Understanding User Interface Design Rules*.
- Thursday, April 24, 7 pm: Poets Ryan Gallagher & Sunnilyn Thibodeaux.
- Sunday, May 18, 2 pm: Latif Harris on the poetry scene of the late 1950s & '60s.

WEEKLY & MONTHLY SERIES

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 Scott Foster Quartet.
- 4th Fridays: The Chuck Peterson Quintet.
- Special 5th Friday Guests: May 30: Pacific Jazz Connection.

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.

- March 23: Americano Social Club – Jazz.
- March 30: Heshima Duo – Jazz.
- April 6: Larry Dunlap & Bobbe Norris – Jazz.
- April 13: Jenny Ferris & Friends – Jazz.
- April 27: Nilsson Fest 2014 – an embarrassment of Harry Nilsson – Pop.
- May 4: Jon Frank Quartet – Jazz.
- May 11: Hamir Atwel/Michael Coleman Duo – Jazz.
- May 18: Charles Hamilton Quartet – Jazz.
- May 25: Grant Levin Trio – Jazz.
- June 1: Dwaine Spurlin Quartet – Jazz.
- June 8: Times Three – Jazz.
- June 22: Joel Forrester – Solo Piano.
- June 29: Albatross Quartet – Clarinet Ensemble.

Poetry with Open Mic, hosted by Jerry Ferraz: 1st and 3rd Monday of each month, 7 pm.

- April 7: Erica Goss & Jose Luis Gutierrez.
- April 21: Michael Koch & Ronald Sauer.

Literary Talks: Last Sundays at 2:30 pm (except the summer months).

- Walker Brents III addresses literary, mythological and philosophical topics.
- March 30: The 12th century German writer, composer, philosopher and Christian mystic, Hildegard Von Bingen.

Bird & Beckett Book Club, 1st Thursday of each month, 7 pm. Call the store for titles.