

# Glen Park News

## Will the Mission Blues Return?

*"This heavenly blue butterfly will fly high in the sky, higher and higher. The sunlight will touch the blue on its wings until it seems to disappear."*

In her poem "The Blue Butterfly," Marjolein Bastin employs a butterfly to represent the soul of a loved one, giving comfort to those left behind to mourn the loss.

The metaphorical metamorphosis of human to butterfly paints a portrait of a soul leaving the body in the form of a butterfly that is unseen only because it blends in with the sky. But, in reality, it is still there.

"We think it is gone, because our eyes are too weak to see—and it is difficult to believe what we cannot see," she wrote.

Back here on Earth, specifically in Glen Canyon, it is easy to believe that the blue butterfly is gone because no one has seen it there in nearly 70 years.

The mission blue butterfly, *Aricia icarioides missionensis*, is a blue or lycaenid butterfly subspecies native to the Bay Area. It once fluttered about in several areas, but now is known to exist most notably in three locations: San Bruno Mountain in San Mateo County, the Marin Headlands, and—sparsely—on Twin Peaks.



A male mission blue butterfly on the southeast ridge of San Bruno Mountain.

Photo by Patrick Kobernus, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

Anna Bunting of the Oakland Museum of California confirmed, "There are 22 mission blue butterflies in the (museum) collection that were collected by Bertram Walker, but two of those were collected in Sonoma County. The 20 that were collected in San Francisco include two that

were collected at in 1945, one at Mt. Davidson in 1937, three in Corona Heights in 1945, seven on Twin Peaks in 1947, and three were collected in Glen Park in 1947."

The mission blue was added to the federal Endangered Species Act list in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## A Wheelie Nice Ending for Stolen Bike

The strange and wonderful still happens every day; we just don't always know it. Take the surprising case of a stolen bike that found its way across the Bay and back to its owner with the aid of a sharp-eyed Glen Park resident and a remarkable coincidence.

It all started on July 3, a Sunday.

A man named Mike, who asked that only his first name be used, was relaxing with friends from his bicycle club at Fieldwork Brewery in Berkeley, after a long ride in the East Bay hills.

His car was parked just 50 feet away from the outdoor seating at the pub, but somehow thieves managed to break in without anyone hearing them.

When he returned to his car, he found that the very cool fold-up commuter bike he'd gotten just six weeks before was gone. The chances of recovering it seemed remote.

"I thought, 'Well, so much for that,'" Mike said of the bike he'd been using on BART to get to his various jobs as a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

### GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION

#### QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, October 27, 7 p.m.  
San Francisco Police Academy.  
350 Amber Drive

#### Agenda:

Candidate's Forum for  
BART District 9  
Board of Directors

## Changes Coming to Business District

At Bosworth and Diamond streets, workers were busy installing new drywall and extracting the old bank vault when signs went up in the window announcing a new health care facility is coming to the long-vacant Citibank building.

But down the block and around the corner, old friends departed the neighborhood hardware store, threatening to leave another gaping vacancy in the heart of Glen Park even as plans for

the former Chenery Park site next door come together.

These and other changes keep the business district on the boil as our neighborhood prepares for fall and the approaching holiday season.

#### Urgent Care Clinic

Sprains and strains, broken bones, cuts needing stitches, kids' ear infections, flu shots—all are the types of non-life-threatening medical emergencies that can be treated at the new drop-in health clinic across from the

Glen Park BART station.

It's part of a new chain with the tongue-twisting name Dignity Health-GoHealth Urgent Care, which offers help for conditions that need quick attention but are not critical enough to demand the services of a hospital emergency room. The target opening date is Sept. 26.

On hand at all times will be a physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant, plus a "rad tech" who helps with electronic paperwork and operates

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

# GLEN PARK NEWS

The *Glen Park News* is published quarterly by the Glen Park Association. Signed articles are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Glen Park Association.

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## ❖ GPA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN ❖

The streets of Glen Park are lined with a variety of residential architecture. Nineteenth-century country Victorians; turn-of-the-century Queen Anne gable-roof row houses; shingled 1920s bungalows; stucco "Marina" bay windows; tile-roofed neo-Mediterranean; boxy 1970s flats, and on to steel-frame windows paired with horizontal wood siding that say designed in the 21st century.

Often, you can see all these styles in one block of Glen Park. We may not have the vivid character of long rows of Victorians in the Mission, or 1920s flats in Noe Valley, but our eclectic blocks still convey the history of the neighborhood over the decades.

We San Franciscans value the historic character of our neighborhoods, and the City's land use and planning controls reflect a high degree of scrutiny of changes that could affect the historic architectural patterns of our streets. One key requirement is that building permits for exterior changes for any structure 45 years old or older must go through an historic resources review. As mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act, all buildings that were constructed more than 50 years ago and possess architectural or historical significance may be considered potential historic resources, and proposed changes to these buildings may require some

level of environmental review.

The 45-year threshold is based on the standard that a building must be at least 50 years old to be an historic resource. After 45 years, it is approaching that age and must be reviewed. In 2016, buildings 45 to 50 years old date from 1971 or earlier, so this is not only about Victorians or interesting 1920s bungalows.

How does this work in practice? Because most neighborhoods, including Glen Park, have not had formal historic resources surveys completed, each project is looked at case-by-case. I am one who strongly supports careful review of changes to older buildings in Glen Park, but there is a cost in time and money for this. A couple of projects in the neighborhood, that altered the facade in one case, and converted a garage to a new entrance and living space in another—all within code—each took about six months and about \$7,000 in permit and consultant fees to conclude that these changes would not affect an historic resource.

Is there a better way to balance review of historic resources and fair progress on residential remodeling projects? Yes, through preparation of a Glen Park "Historic Context Statement" and historic resources survey, under Planning Department guidelines. The survey would research every structure over 45-years-old, and document those that are potential historic resources. (The historic criteria include not only

architecture, but also associations with significant events or persons.)

When the survey is complete, an owner will know from the start whether or not an exterior alteration will need historic resources review. Keep in mind that alterations to historic structures can be approved, but would require additional time.

How do we start the context study and survey in Glen Park?

The Glen Park Association is raising funds for the survey. In August, the GPA received a \$15,000 donation earmarked for the study. The donation was part of an agreement between several residents, including myself, and a developer who began an exterior remodeling before historic resources review was undertaken. Our permit concerns were addressed, plans were reviewed, the project proceeded, and the developer completed the donation.

The full budget for the study could be \$40,000 to \$50,000. This is within reach with grants from the City's Historic Preservation Fund Committee and other public funding. We will keep the community in the loop as this survey take shape in order to balance protection of the character of Glen Park and clear rules and guidance for building projects. ❖

*Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association. A list of current GPA volunteer officers is in the box on Page 3*

## ❖ FROM THE EDITORS ❖

Pick up a newspaper, watch the TV news, listen to talk radio or scroll through your social media feeds and the showdown between Hillary Clinton, the Democratic candidate for president, and her GOP rival, Donald Trump, dominates.

While that contest reigns as the title fight in the Nov. 8 election, there are other battles playing out down-ballot. A lot of them.

In San Francisco, voters will consider 24 city-only ballot measures, elect a new representative for the BART Board, and weigh in on races for the Board of Education, Community College Board, San Francisco Superior Court and state Assembly and Senate. There's also an open U.S. Senate seat with the departure of Barbara Boxer.

Supervisor Scott Wiener, Glen Park's representative on the Board of Supervisors, is hoping to depart his District 8 post mid-term and take over the state Senate seat being vacated

by termed-out Mark Leno. Wiener is running against his board colleague, District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim.

Expect a deluge of campaign mail soon, especially from some of the hotly contested ballot measures. Several, promoted by the Board of Supervisors' left flank, attempt to wrestle the mayor's control over City departments. Other measures would pump more money into transit, road repair, homeless services, senior services and street trees.

There are proposals to tax sugary beverages, raise the local sales tax, impose higher taxes on pricey real estate transactions, ban tents on city sidewalks, allow non-citizens to vote in school board elections, and tighten campaign contributions from lobbyists.

Our story on Page 3 highlights a handful of the local ballot measures that affect Glen Park.

San Francisco voters also will consider a regional BART funding measure. Oh, and then there are the 17

state ballot measures on the November ballot. Whew.

We're not going to tell you how to vote, but we certainly are going to encourage you to vote—the bedrock of American democracy.

If you aren't registered to vote already, you have until Oct. 24, although people sworn in as U.S. citizens after that date can register up to Election Day. Voters also can cast a ballot early at City Hall, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and during the last weekend before the election.

With our long ballot, it's important to not wait till the last minute to get up to speed on candidates' platforms and the pros and cons of ballot measures. At our mid-September press time, the craziness is just ramping up.

For more information on how to register to vote and what's on the ballot, visit the San Francisco Department of Elections at [www.sfgov.org/elections](http://www.sfgov.org/elections) or call 415-554-4375. ❖



# Trees, Roads, Homeless Pack Ballot

**W**hile all 24 propositions on the San Francisco Nov. 8 ballot affect Glen Park residents, two are of special interest. One would end an unpopular City program that make homeowners fiscally responsible for trees in front of their houses. The other would provide additional funding for Muni, street paving, BART and homeless services.

Proposition F would change how San Francisco's street trees are maintained.

San Francisco Public Works currently maintains about one third of the 105,000 street trees in the city. But due to budget cuts, the department in 2011 began the process of transferring tree-maintenance responsibility to fronting property owners. To date the City has relinquished more than 7,000 of its trees, with more of the controversial transfers to come.

But the transfer program would be halted—and responsibility for the trees that had been turned over would be taken back by Pubic Works—if voters approve the ballot measure. The proposal, crafted by Supervisors Scott Wiener and John Avalos, would set aside \$19 million a year from the City's general fund to pay for tree care. The original plan floated at City Hall called for imposing a new parcel tax to pay for tree care, but that



City tree crews would be bolstered under a November ballot proposal.

idea was yanked when it looked like there weren't votes at the Board of Supervisors to place it on the ballot.

Under Prop. F, Public Works would assume responsibility for all street trees in San Francisco, even those that always had been in private hands, although individual property owners could opt out and continue to pay for pruning themselves. Public Works also would assume the burden of repairing any tree-related sidewalk damage.

The measure needs a simple majority of the vote to pass.

Another ballot measure, Proposition

J, would amend the City Charter to create a homeless housing and services fund that would appropriate \$12.5 million in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and \$50 million annually for the next 24 years. The amount of the appropriation would be adjusted annually for changes in discretionary City revenues.

The fund would be used to provide services and shelter for homeless people and pay for programs to prevent homelessness.

The measure also would create a transportation improvement fund and appropriate \$25.4 million in 2016-2017 and \$101.6 million annually, also for the next 24 years.

The money would be used to improve the city's transportation network and would be allocated as follows:

- 32.9 percent for street resurfacing and repair.
- 18.8 percent to Muni fleet, facilities and infrastructure repair and improvements.
- 14.1 percent to improve reliability and increase capacity in regional transit systems that serve San Francisco, including BART and Caltrain.
- 12.4 percent to mitigate deficiencies in transit service to low-income and transit-dependent communities and provide transit service to low-income youth, seniors and people with disabilities.
- 9.4 percent for transit optimization and expansion.

While there is no funding mechanism attached to Prop. J, San Francisco voters also will consider a November ballot measure, Proposition K, to raise the local sales tax by 0.75 percent, bringing the total to 9.25 percent. The increase would generate an estimated \$155 million a year. Prop. K also requires a simple majority to pass. ❖

## ❖ NEWS FROM CITY HALL ❖

**T**his summer I was proud to join the Recreation and Park Department at the opening of Beacon Trail, which serves as a connection between Billy Goat Hill, on Beacon Street, and Walter Haas Park, at Addison Street and Diamond Heights Boulevard.

For those Glen Park residents who haven't made the trek over to see the new trail, I highly recommend it. What was once an unofficial (and undeveloped) hillside path connecting these two parks is now a safe, well-tended trail with steps and safe access for residents of all ages.

Improving open space and expanding greenery in our neighborhoods has been a priority for me since I took office. Whether large-scale improvements, as in Glen Canyon Park, or the smaller but just as important improvements like Beacon Trail, we can improve our parks and gathering

places to improve our neighborhood.

I also authored a measure on the ballot this year to improve the health of our street trees, because we know that greenery doesn't end at the edge of a park. A robust urban forest contributes to a vibrant and healthy environment for us all.

We have more work to do to green Glen Park and improve our parks. We will continue to work to improve Glen Canyon Park with improvements to the Rec Center. The Glen Park Greenway, bordering Bosworth Street, is moving forward, thanks to the advocacy and work of the Glen Park Association. These are exciting projects, and I will continue to support them and other park improvements throughout District 8. ❖

*Supervisor Scott Wiener represents District 8, which includes Glen Park, on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. More information is available at [www.scottwiener.com](http://www.scottwiener.com).*

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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.



## ❖ CHECK IT OUT AT THE LIBRARY ❖

I am happy to introduce Monica Castillo, the new adult services librarian at the Glen Park Branch Library. Monica is a native San Franciscan who earned her degree in library and information science in 2011 from San Jose State University. Prior to coming to Glen Park in May, Monica worked at the Visitacion Valley branch. She is excited to be a part of the Glen Park community and is eager to work with neighbors and patrons to foster partnerships built on literacy, learning and growth.

Monica is passionate about the role that libraries play in their communities. She says that they can and should be an integral part of neighborhood culture: "You're never too young or too old to learn, since learning is a lifelong pursuit. Libraries are designed for this lofty purpose. One of the greatest resources all of us have is a right and access to the wondrous world of libraries."

These are not just empty phrases that Monica learned in library school. She is offering a weekly "book-a-librarian" program, which provides 30-minute,



Monica Castillo, the new adult services librarian, at the Glen Park Library.

one-on-one computer training sessions. As a member of the library's Computer Corps, Monica brings tech savvy to Glen Park. If you need help with checking out eBooks, creating an email account, uploading photos to Facebook, navigating PowerPoint or some other digital task, stop by or call

415-355-2858 to book an appointment with her.

Monica also has collaborated with other SFPL librarians to create craft programming. She will be offering adult craft programs every other month. Join her on Sept. 24 to make Papel Picado (perforated paper) for our VIVA celebration of Latino and Hispanic Heritage. Next time you're in the library, take a minute to introduce yourself to Monica. She is an asset we are all lucky to have.

Speaking of which, we are all lucky to be in a city that fully supports its libraries. The recently approved City budget increased library funding, which will allow the system to hire more staff at all levels and open branch libraries for more hours. The changes will not be immediate—these things take time—

so look for the increases by late spring or early summer 2017. And thanks for supporting and loving your public library!❖

*Katrin Reimuller is the chief librarian at the Glen Park Library.*

### GLEN PARK LIBRARY HOURS

Monday/Tuesday 10-6

Wednesday 12-8

Thursday 12-7

Friday/Saturday 1-6

Sunday 1-5

## Contruction Completed: Verdict Still Out on Merits

With construction on the Bosworth/Diamond intersection finished and traffic patterns beginning to settle, the City is optimistic that the traffic-calming efforts there have succeeded in creating a safer intersection for both pedestrians and bicyclists, although many motorists are grumbling about bigger backups and longer waits to get through the signalized intersection due to the changes.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, which designed the reconfigured intersection, is monitoring the situation to see if it is functioning smoothly and as designed.

"If we start to see an uptick in accidents or complaints coming into 311 (the City's customer service hotline), we might go out and look at it a bit more closely. But if everything's flowing well, we will leave it as is," said SFMTA spokeswoman Kelley McCoy.

Now the city is beginning to turn its attention to another and similarly complex and dangerous web of roads at Bosworth, Arlington and Lyell streets.

This includes the crosswalk on Bosworth Street just east of the BART station, where drivers are getting onto the Interstate 280 southbound freeway ramp, long an area of concern. It was included as an intersection to be dealt

with the Glen Park Plan of November 2003.

The City has come up with \$260,000 to start the early steps of planning, engineering and neighborhood outreach. Don't expect construction to begin this year.

The aim is to find ways to improve pedestrian safety.

"Part of the engineering work is to figure out what's feasible," McCoy said.

One possibility is to install a traffic signal to give both vehicles and pedestrians a better sense of whose turn it is to move.

Currently, cars often shoot around buses stopped at the stop on Bosworth Street fronting the BART station, then pull quickly over to the right to turn onto the freeway on ramp.

The crosswalk passing the freeway entrance is not easy to navigate. Not only is it long, but people using it as they head toward the BART station have an uphill climb, often slowing them down.

Given the slowdown and congestion at the Bosworth/Diamond intersection due to the City's traffic-calming measures, drivers appear to have an increased tendency to be frustrated when they finally get close to the freeway entrance, sometimes driving faster than is safe. It's not uncommon to hear screeching brakes as cars make the right turn and suddenly realize there's someone in the crosswalk. ❖



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# Glen Park: A Guinea Pig for Shuttle Trial

The Glen Park BART station is the first stop in a citywide experiment to fill gaps in San Francisco’s commuter shuttle network. The longer 35-foot-length vehicles began using the Bosworth Street loading zone adjacent to the BART station again in July to pick up and drop off tech employees who live in San Francisco and work on the Peninsula. More than two dozen shuttles use the stop during the morning commute.

The restart came after neighborhood commuter shuttle service came to an abrupt halt last February when the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency forced the longer shuttles onto state-defined “arterial roads” that are not necessarily logical travel routes. For example, Bosworth is an arterial but can be accessed only by Diamond, which is not.

Diamond Street is the only non-arterial street being piloted now, said Francesca Napolitan, a spokeswoman for the SFMTA. “As SFMTA continues to observe operations and receive community feedback, there could be other small segments of non-arterial streets that would be tested out as a pilot.”

The agency has identified several other non-arterial gaps across the city in the arterial network where commuter shuttles are allowed to operate. The Glen Park BART station came first, thanks to rider requests and its status as a transportation hub with no nearby shuttle stops, she said.

The shuttles have been criticized as a cause of rising home prices in the San Francisco neighborhoods they serve and for creating driving hazards on San Francisco’s narrow, steep streets. The City’s effort to regulate them started in August, 2014, when the SFMTA tested a network of shuttle stops, including some at Muni bus stops. Shuttle operators paid a small fee per stop.

Though the agency’s board of directors unanimously approved making the pilot permanent, some members of the Board of Supervisors scuttled the agreement, threatening a time-consuming and costly environmental review.

The resulting compromise was a one-year plan that restricts the shuttles to



A commuter bus turns from Diamond Street onto Bosworth Street. Photo by Rachel Gordon

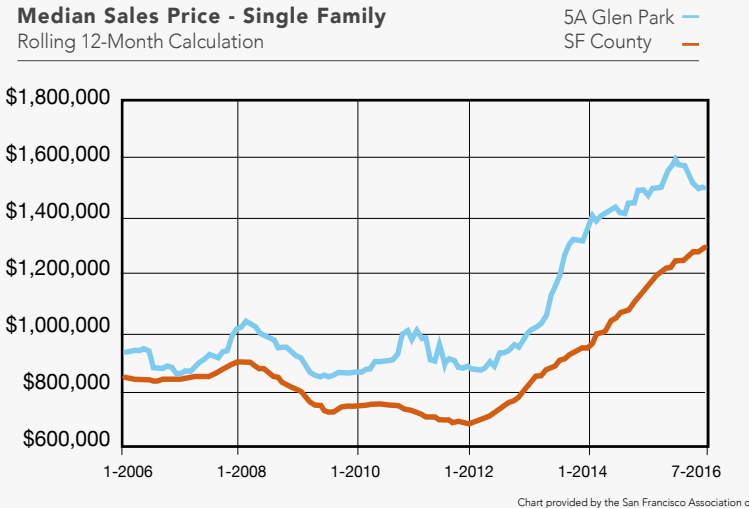
“THE SHUTTLES HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED AS A CAUSE OF RISING HOME PRICES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS THEY SERVE”

state-defined arterial roads, effectively putting an end to service in Glen Park. Shuttle companies also were required to use less-polluting vehicles and pay \$7.31 per stop. The City agreed to look at the shuttles’ effect on local housing and to study a “hub” model: Shuttle buses would drop off and pick up at one or a few central locations that commuters would reach some other way.

Public demand—and the fact that there is no other shuttle stop near such a major transportation hub in downtown Glen Park—got the neighborhood included in the trial.

The City is studying the shuttles’ effect on Muni and the overall use of the loading zone at BART, as well as double parking, rider queuing, shuttle volumes and how long the shuttles remain at the stop. So far the agency has counted about 30 shuttle stops at the site in the mornings, she said. The pilot is expected to run through September, with a report in October. Any proposed changes would need to be approved by the SFMTA board. ❖

## GLEN PARK REAL ESTATE Q2 WRAP-UP



### MY RECENT SALES:

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- 4043 CESAR CHAVEZ | Noe Valley**  
Single family home
- 55 GATES | Bernal Heights** – Single family home
- 80 THOR AVENUE | Glen Park**  
Raw land. - Sold for 23% over asking
- 149 MELROSE | Sunnyside** - Vacant Land

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## BART Weekend Service Will Resume in October

**B**ART expects to complete weekend track repairs between the Glen Park and Daly City stations by mid-October. Since the end of July, weekend passengers have had to use bus bridges to travel between those stations, and to and from the Balboa Park station, which is closed on weekends. Glen Park and Daly City stations remain open during the repairs.

SFMTA is running a free local shuttle between all three stations on weekends. SamTrans has free express shuttle buses

between Glen Park and Daly City.

The temporary weekend Glen Park shuttle stop is on Bosworth Street, between the station plaza and the Interstate 280 freeway entrance.

BART is working 24 hours a day on weekends to make "vital repairs," including adding sound-dampening equipment to the curved trackway to reduce noise from the trains. Other work includes improvements at Balboa Park, and tree trimming along the trackway. ❖

### Help Wanted, Young or Old

The Glen Park News is a rare San Francisco neighborhood newspaper whose unpaid staff includes home delivery volunteers. Distribution Manager Murray Schneider picks up our quarterly issues from the printer, and distributes them to 26 carriers, who deliver copies to homes on nearby blocks.

Three of these volunteers will be leaving in coming months. If you could spend a half hour or so delivering papers to your neighbors every three months, please email: [murrayschneider@gmail.com](mailto:murrayschneider@gmail.com).

Besides a bit of exercise and fresh air, you'll earn the thanks of your fellow volunteers as well as the satisfaction of being a vital part of a unique, respected local news team. ❖

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# SFMOMA Showcases Glen Park Artist

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is honoring the lifetime work of prolific artist and longtime Glen Park resident Bruce Conner with the first major one-person show in its recently reopened and magnificently renovated building.

by Nicki Michaels  
The retrospective, *Bruce Conner: It's All True*, opens Oct. 29 and runs through Jan. 22, 2017.

The show debuted in New York's Museum of Modern Art in June. After San Francisco, it will travel to Madrid's Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia.

Though Bruce Conner's career spanned 50 years, with numerous gallery and museum exhibits, it has taken until now for the art world to present an extensive overview of his extraordi-

that included musicians, writers, poets, performers and visual artists collectively known as the Beat Generation.

Inside the Sussex Street home where the Conners lived and worked for decades, the very air is infused with their combined creativity. Jean recalled in an interview this summer that over time they had lived in several neighborhoods, and had even left the city for a number of years. During the Cold War, she said, "Bruce felt that the atomic bomb threat was too much. Sooner or later the bomb was going to be dropped and San Francisco would be one of the places to be hit. Bruce wanted to go to Mexico to escape death."

And so they moved there for a time in 1961. "But in Mexico they celebrate death. It was just all around you," Jean explained, clearly amused at the irony. The powerful impact of the Cold War

on Bruce Conner was reflected in his art over the years. Perhaps his best known and most iconic film, *CROSSROADS* (1976), uses actual government footage of atomic bomb blasts.

After about a year and soon after their son Robert was born, they returned to the United States, eventually settling

in San Francisco, and by 1973 they were ready to buy a place of their own.

Before finding their house in a newspaper ad, Jean said, "We didn't even know that Glen Park existed." But the Conners were delighted to discover numerous artists in their new neighborhood, including seven on their block alone who named themselves "The Block Heads" and who had a group show at what is now the Bello Coffee and Tea café on Diamond Street. Over the years, both Conners displayed their art locally at Bird & Beckett Books and the Glen Park Library.

Eventually, their profiles in the art world rose—they were each represented by prestigious galleries; they showed separately and together; and their art was displayed in and purchased by major museums. Jean, who worked in both oils and pastels, is best known for her complex, mysterious and surreal collages, five of which are in the permanent collection of SFMOMA.

In 1984 Bruce was diagnosed with a life-threatening degenerative liver disease. He opted out of a transplant, an unproven procedure at the time, and was given only three years to live. But, defying the odds, he survived eight times longer than doctors predicted and was artistically productive throughout.

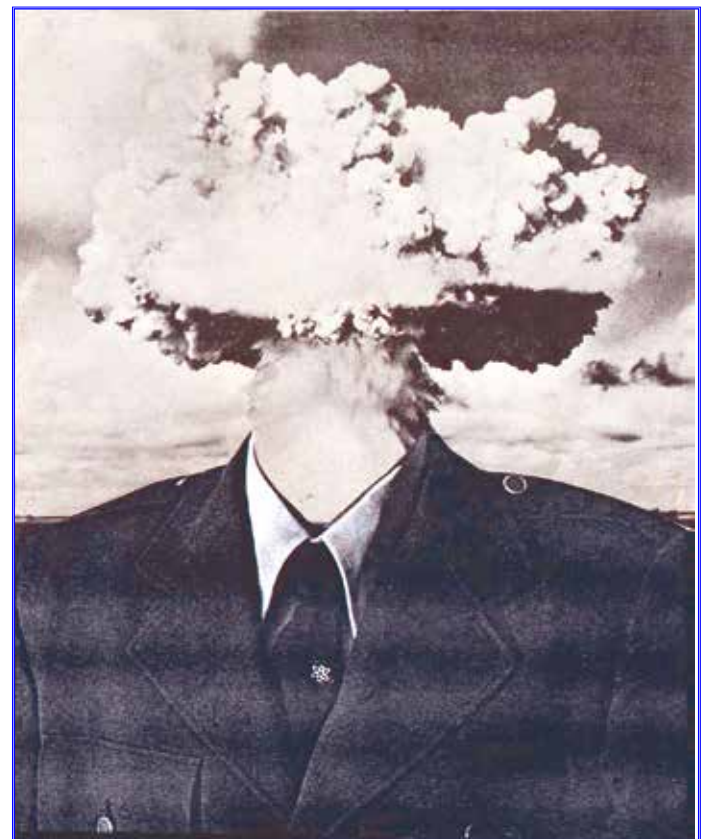
In 2003 Bruce wove five striking tapestries, based on earlier small collages reflecting "his approaching death and frustration with not having a medical cure."

Months before he died, Jean recounts, "Bruce couldn't handle the paper any more or do the cutting." He recruited his friend and fellow artist, Dean Smith, to be both his collaborator and his hands.

Jean said that "Bruce had a sense of humor, though lots of his work is very dark." She recalled how, as he became more known as an artist, Bruce experienced a creative block facing a pristine sheet of paper, "feeling pressure that he had to create something great and that he couldn't do it." Jean suggested, "You don't need to sign them, just do them." Problem solved!

From then on Bruce either didn't sign work, or signed pseudonyms such as Emily Feather, Anonymouse, Anon, or Anonymous, challenging the norms of the art world, another ongoing theme of his. Bruce once wryly commented, "Anonymous is everywhere doing the best work in every country, in every century. The greatest artists have always been anonymous."

When asked what Bruce might think of the SFMOMA retrospective, Jean said, "If Bruce were alive today, it wouldn't be happening. He made huge demands. He wanted absolute con-



Bruce Conner, *BOMBHEAD*, 1989, Offset lithograph and photocopy collage, 9 3/4 x 7 11/16 in. © Conner Family Trust, San Francisco, and Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.



Bruce Conner in 2007, a year before his death. Photo by Frank English, courtesy of the Conner Family Trust, San Francisco.

nary body of work, mainly because the scope and breadth of his artistry defied categorization.

Conner, who died in 2008, innovated and mastered numerous and varied mediums sequentially and concurrently—mediums as diverse as collage, found-object assemblage, surrealist sculpture, complex folded ink blots, paintings, prints, photography and avant-garde film and video, for which he is considered a major innovator. To say he was ahead of his time is an understatement. He was a true genius with a restless spirit, a creative soul and a mean sense of humor—and he lived among us here in Glen Park.

Bruce and his wife Jean Conner, two artists from the Midwest, were still in their 20s and just recently married when they were inspired to move to San Francisco by Bruce's close friend, the poet Michael McClure. The year was 1957, and the couple soon became part of the flourishing creative scene in North Beach

trol over everything, and museums don't usually work that way. There were always battles." Jean is one of the collaborators for this exhibit; her role is to ensure the accurate reflection of her late husband's vision.

Jean Conner continues to create her atmospheric collages, showing her art in major galleries and museums and traveling the world attending Bruce's shows.

She is an avid gardener and a longtime contributing member of the Glen Park Garden Club. And most Wednesday mornings she can be found with fellow Friends of Glen Canyon Park pulling out non-native species, weeding and trimming and making the park more beautiful for us all. ❖



At opening night at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, are Gary Garrels, Chief Curator for SFMOMA, Jean Conner, Robert Conway, and Rudolf Freiling, Curator of Media Art for SFMOMA. Photo by Will Ragozzino, courtesy of MoMA.





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## ❖ (HI)STORIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ❖

**C**henery Street runs for more than a mile through Fairmount Heights and Glen Park, from 30th Street to its terminus at Elk Street and Glen Canyon Park. It first appeared on the survey map of the Fairmount Homestead Association in May 1864, only 15 years after the Gold Rush and while the Civil War was still raging. Those historic events help reveal the legacy of Richard Chenery, the all-but-forgotten namesake of Glen Park's major street.

Born in 1817, Chenery was the son of a prominent New England family that had emigrated from England to Salem, Mass., in 1630. At news of gold in California, Chenery was elected captain of the Holyoke Northampton Mining Company, then departed for the Gold Country in February 1849. Traveling by sea and crossing the Isthmus of Panama, Chenery took six months to reach San Francisco.

He quickly observed that providing services to miners would be easier money than digging for gold. He became proprietor of the famous Globe Hotel in Sacramento, and also held an interest in the National Hotel in San Francisco. Concurrently, he ran Chenery & Hazeltine (later the Brick Store) in Sacramento, which sold all types of goods.

Apparently a multitasker, Chenery also operated side-wheel steamers and served as the first president of the California Steam Navigation Company. Five of his steamers transported goods and Pony Express mail between Sacramento and San Francisco, and the famous entertainer Lola Montez became a frequent passenger. The citizenry called him Colonel Chenery, reportedly for his participation in the Vigilance Committees of 1851 or 1856, although his name appears on no official lists. And when the U.S. government had no funds to feed the destitute Pomo Indians, Chenery stepped in to purchase 100,000 pounds of beef.

After serving in the California Assembly, Chenery became a contractor for pioneer rail-

roads, including California's first line, the Central California Railroad, and he worked with Theodore Judah to extend the railroad east of Folsom. He led the California contingent in President Abraham Lincoln's inauguration parade in Washington, D.C., in 1861, and soon after was appointed by Lincoln himself as agent and acting purser for the U.S. Navy at San Francisco.

After a stint operating Chenery, Souther & Co. in San Francisco selling wine and liquors for the apothecary industry and general consumption, Chenery moved to Belfast, Maine, in 1879. There, he ran the Crosby Hotel and helped the city establish its waterworks before his death in 1890 at the age of 73.

Other than the street that bears his name, it's puzzling how Richard Chenery, a California pioneer of such stature, became so forgotten. ❖

*Evelyn Rose is documenting the histories of Glen Park and nearby neighborhoods. To learn more, visit [www.GlenParkHistory.org](http://www.GlenParkHistory.org). The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project meets every other (even) month and offers history walks. Join the mailing list: [GlenParkHistory@gmail.com](mailto:GlenParkHistory@gmail.com).*



The Map of the Lands of the Fairmount Homestead Association, May 7, 1864.

Photo Courtesy of the S.F. Public Library.



# Nothing Like a Party To Help Neighbors Build Community



Neighbors gather on Sussex Street for a Neighborfest block party.  
Photo by Ashley Hathaway

For the second time around, a gaggle of Glen Park neighbors enjoyed a blocked-off section of Sussex Street between Elk and Mizpah streets for their second annual "Neighborfest" block party.

What better way to celebrate the end of the summer season!

Neighbors from Mizpah, Chenery, Elk and Sussex streets organized the official event that came to life on Aug. 28 from noon to 4 p.m.

Everyone enjoyed a much needed break from all the summer fog with a gloriously warm and sunny Sunday afternoon that included live music, potluck picnic food and mini-burritos brought in from La Corneta in downtown Glen Park.

In keeping with tradition from last year's event, there was a face-painting station, a traditional piñata, as well as a representative from SF SAFE and, thanks to Mizpah neighbor Evelyn Rose, a table dedicated to the Glen Park History project. Two officers from the San Francisco Police Department were also there to talk to neighbors and enjoy the afternoon.

The gathering, which drew more than 60 celebrants, was made possible through the San Francisco Neighborfest Block Party Campaign.

Neighborfest, established last summer, is a program designed by the City-sponsored Neighborhood Empowerment Network with the goal of bringing neighbors together socially in a safe and enjoyable way.

The organizers feel this is an easy way get to know your neighbors better and build community while having fun.

The program provides block party host neighbors with all the necessary information and permits to throw a successful event. To throw your own block party, or for more information, visit: <http://empowersf.org/neighborfest/>. ❖

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## ✿ DIGGING THE DIRT ✿

**G**ardeners in Glen Park know that fall is the time to plant. They are busy propagating their favorite plants, dreaming in front of racks of packaged seeds and shopping in their favorite plant nurseries for that perfect plant.

Why now? Because planting just before the cool, wet weather will take care of the first vital months of new growth—and that makes for strong, healthy plants and less work for the gardener!

Of course, installing drip and water recycling systems and using rain barrels are essential. A great place to start is [sfwater.org](http://sfwater.org), San Francisco's water-savers advisory site.

**Rain:** Are we going to get a decent rainy season? My research produced some laughable results. One official website confidently predicted a 30 percent chance of average rainfall, a 30 percent chance of below

average, and a 30 percent chance of above average. Not helpful! However, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website has an early prediction of normal rainfall for our area.



*Salvia elegans*, photographed at the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum.

Photo by Eric Hunt / Wikimedia.org

hooded yellow flowers held above thick furry pale green leaves.

•**Euphorbias:** This wonderfully weird group of plants has tiny brilliant flowers surrounded by odd, colored bracts. A personal favorite is Mediterranean spurge (*Euphorbia characias wulfenii*), a tall architectural element in the garden. Glen Park gardeners love the variegated euphorbias for brilliant contrast and low water use, for instance *Euphorbia characias* "Tasmanian Tiger," whose leaves provide brilliant contrast in the garden.

•**Grasses:** It's hard to find truly drought-tolerant grasses, but the large New Zealand wind grass (*Stipa arundinacea*), with its fine, reddish leaves, does well.

Most other grasses that I like require moderate water—the low-arching bright green Berkeley sedge (*Carex divulsa*), the lovely blue Elijah blue fescue, and Lomandra, a tough, spiky green grass that tolerates a dry summer.

•**Yarrow (*Achillea*):** There are yellow, red and white flowering yarrows, all with lacy gray-green foliage. *Achillea moonshine* is bright yellow. *Achillea millefolium*, with white flowers, is native to this area. It's tough and lovely.

•**Acacia Cousin Itt (*Acacia cognata*):** A new favorite of gardeners who like the fine, weeping leaves for foliage contrast in the garden. It's very drought-tolerant, always green, super in containers.

•**Bulbs:** I buy ixias, sparaxis, species gladiolus, iris and lilies and plant them in wire cages (due to gopher activity). Containers of bulbs such as tulips and daffodils are a wonderful welcome to spring.

### Resources

•Flowercraft Garden Center, 550 Bayshore Blvd.; Flora Grubb Gardens, 1634 Jerrold Ave.; Bay Natives, 10 Cargo Way.

•National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website: [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/)

•San Francisco government website: [sfwater.org](http://sfwater.org). ❖

*Kay Hamilton Estey is the Glen Park Garden Club columnist. If you are interested in joining the club, contact her at [kay.estey@gmail.com](mailto:kay.estey@gmail.com).*



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# Joost & Baden Mini-Park Delights Visitors

If you're up for a walk, take a moment to amble over to Sunnyside's Joost & Baden Mini-Park.

Tucked away between Joost Avenue and Mangels Avenue, the whimsical corridor is sandwiched by Murray Schneider Conservatory on the south and Nordhoff Street on the north. It features drought-tolerant plants and shrubbery, such as kangaroo paw and a variety of succulents.

San Francisco boasts a plethora of these off-the-grid sanctuaries, tiny public places that offer rustic respite. In Glen Park, Ohlone Way, Poppy Lane and Penny Lane all come to mind.

But Sunnyside's postage size mini-park is possibly the most nondescript of the lot, a blink-and-you'll-miss-it lost opportunity if you're not observant.

"We call it the Butterfly Garden," said Sally Ross, leaning over a broom one morning in August. Ross has lived in the Sunnyside for more than 20 years and was on the scene as the community mini-park evolved.

A group of seven Sunnyside friends, seeing the potential for a nearby butterfly habitat, collected eggs, then nurtured them in their homes.

"We began about 15 years ago," said Ross. "We'd start each spring. I kept the eggs in a large glass container, covered in gauze, in my kitchen."

She watched the metamorphosis from egg to caterpillar to winged butterfly emerging from its chrysalis, expanding and then drying its wings: "I'd open a kitchen window and release the butterflies."

"Mini-parks, such as Joost & Baden, are truly special for neighbors," Joey Kahn, Rec and Park spokesman, told the Glen Park News. "They can often feel secluded and far away from the noise of the city. They are great places to have a peaceful picnic, catch up with friends or just take a deep breath."

Craig Scott and Erin Peters have lived on Nordhoff Street for a dozen years. One day in August, the couple and their 5-year-old son, Walter, headed down the gently graded easement. With an empty lot on the left and residential backyards on the right, Walter skipped between his parents, stopping at a wall of decorative tiles grouted into place by neighbors around the time the butterfly propagation began.

"The lane is only a path through," said Scott, a geographic information specialist for Golden Gate National

Recreation Area, who knows about mapping.

"It's ever so much more pleasant than Baden Street, which is a nightmare to climb," said Peters, a high school humanities teacher. "Here it feels like a total break from the urban surroundings."

While Scott spoke, a butterfly, possibly a spring white, flitted among autumn joy sedum, which is a big-time nectar plant. The narrow alley performs as a cloistered funnel, sheltering butterflies. California sage, braided in a quilt along the lane's 54-step path, serves as another host plant for butterfly colonies. A painted lady joined the spring white. They performed a ballet, pirouetting across the tapered easement before settling on a California native plant gifting them succor.

Butterflies like hilltops and are lured there. Joost & Baden Mini-Park certainly has the altitude. David Carroll, the Rec and Park gardener, spends four hours a week weeding, hand watering and pruning in what he believes is special habitat.

Mayor Joseph Alioto first adopted the mini-parks concept in the 1960s. Today the city boasts dozens of them. Typically fewer than 5,000 square feet, they're laid out to discourage loitering and usually are built on vacant land or City property, such as sewer easements where municipal workers might need access.

For 50 years, the parks have been funded by matching grants from the Interior Department's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Urban Beautification.

The park parallels an empty lot at 149 Mangels Ave., once occupied by a fixer-upper that hurtled off its foundation in 2007, careened down the hill and quickly became the stuff of neighborhood legend.

On the park's south side is Sunnyside Conservatory, which traces its origins back to 1898. Remodeled and reopened to the public under the auspices of Rec and Park in 2009, it was the beneficiary of a \$4.2 million restoration project.

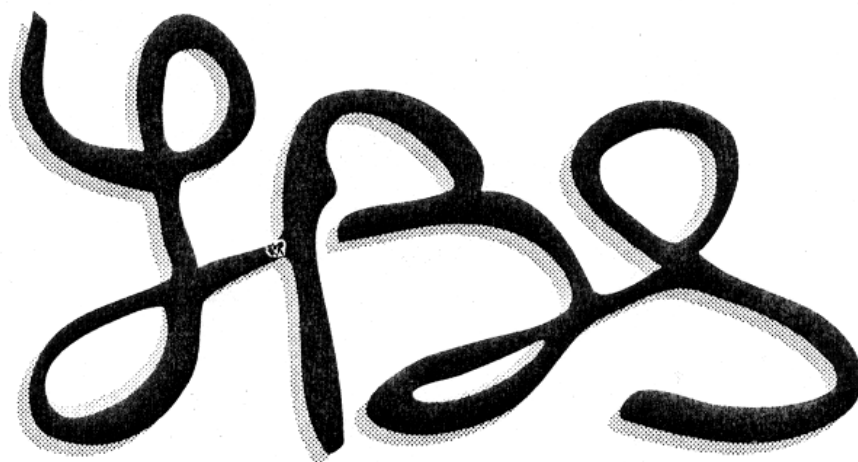
Now, seven years later, Sally Ross and the Friends of the Sunnyside Conservatory, with Rec and Park's approval, mount regularly scheduled volunteer work parties that assist in maintaining the grounds.

They are one of more than 150 "Friends of" groups "who care deeply about neighborhood parks, and we couldn't do our job without them," said Kahn, the Rec and Park spokesman. ❖



Tiles enliven steps at the Sunnyside mini-park.

Photo by Murray Schneider



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# The Buzz About the Sunnyside Beekeeper

**Y**ou've probably heard news of declining honeybee colonies in the past few years, but at one neighborhood home, it's easy to forget the discouraging trend.

Chester Hartsough welcomed thousands of honeybees into his garden four summers ago, and since then, he's been hosting periodic open houses where neighbors can get up close with the bees and purchase the raw honey.

Adjacent to the Sunnyside Conservatory on Monterey Boulevard, Hartsough's spacious garden—the Second Garden, as he calls it—is home to palm trees, several chickens and two beehives, each of which supports a colony of about 40,000 to 60,000 bees. The hives are busy this time of year, with the winged workers zipping in and out of the narrow entrance almost constantly.

Over the summer, he extracted almost 50 pounds of honey. During his most recent open house in August, Hartsough sold honey and soap, lotion and lip balm he'd made with the honey.

Production from his two hives has been somewhat down recently, but past years have yielded around 40 to 60 pounds of honey from each hive, even as much as 100 pounds per hive during

his best summer, about three years ago.

Beekeeping can be a delicate business at the Second Garden: Hives can wither unexpectedly, and honey yields vary dramatically and are hard to predict. Hartsough also manages two other hives in the neighborhood, and this summer, neither has produced enough honey to harvest. "There's always an element of mystery with bees," said Hartsough.

Hartsough, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1974, has always been interested in insects. He holds a master's degree in biology from San Francisco State University.

Hartsough always wanted to keep beehives in his backyard, but his sister, who lives with him, has always been scared of bees and so it never came to be.

When he took a beekeeping

class several years ago, he was surprised at how calm they were, and the news was enough to convince his sister to allow their first hive onto the property.

Throughout the summer, Hartsough examines the hives about every two weeks, typically on warm days when large numbers of bees leave the hive to forage.

When it's time to extract the honey, he transfers the combs into

**HARTSOUGH DOESN'T WEAR THE TRADITIONAL BEE SUIT WHEN HE WORKS—ONLY GLOVES, LONG SLEEVES AND A VEIL. HE'S BEEN STUNG ONLY A FEW TIMES IN HIS MORE THAN FOUR YEARS OF BEEKEEPING.**



Chester Hartsough in his Sunnyside garden with his bee hives.

Photo by Zachary Clark



an extractor, which spins them until all the golden syrup pours out. He's extracted honey as early as May, but the hives usually don't yield enough until June.

Hartsough doesn't wear the traditional bee suit when he works—only gloves, long sleeves and a veil. He's been stung only a few times in his more than four years of beekeeping.

"As I've gotten better at handling the bees, they're much calmer and rarely swarm," he said, adding, "Though I'm not exactly sure what I'm doing differently each time."

Speaking of bee stings, Hartsough said bee venom helps Lyme disease and arthritis, and that several members of the San Francisco Beekeepers Association, to which Hartsough

belongs, swear by it from experience. Local honey is also widely believed to boost the immune system against pollen-related allergies.

Hartsough maintains a blog and Facebook page, facebook.com/thesecondgarden, where he announces open house dates along with updates on the hives and honey production. On the blog, <http://brewandbees.blogspot.com>, you'll also find plenty of beekeeping tutorials and honey recipes ranging from bread, barbecue sauce and sticky honey wings to mead.

At least in San Francisco, Hartsough said, interest in beekeeping is rising, bringing more of these valuable pollinators to the city's skies and plants. ❖



# Neighborhood Parks Connector Opens

While not exactly a stairway to heaven, the recently completed Beacon Trail has 74 steps, which ascend to Diamond Heights' Walter Haas Playground from Upper Noe's Beacon Street.

The Beacon Trail is the latest addition to the Recreation and Park Department's green-belt mosaic of connector trails, which includes the Creeks to Peaks Trail that meanders through Glen Canyon. The new trail wends its way from Billy Goat Hill, affording day trippers and dog walkers safe, accessible recreation.

The project, made possible by the Open Space Fund Undesignated Contingency Reserve, connects the two parks with 680 feet of pathway, comprising 560 feet of earthen trail and 120 feet of box steps, with assigned entrances and erosion control.

The project was celebrated at Walter Haas Playground on July 14, at a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Rec and Park's General Manager Phil Ginsburg, District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener, Rec and Park Commission members and dozens of neighbors.

"I want to thank our community for coming together to find solutions for connecting our parklands through a beautiful new trail," Ginsburg told the assembled crowd. "This improvement project allows families increased access to the basketball courts at Walter Haas and the incredible trails and views from Billy Goat Hill."

Ginsburg recognized project manager Melinda Stockmann, and Natural Areas Program manager Lisa Wayne, both of whom helped find consensus among nearby neighbors.

"I am thrilled that we're increasing connectivity between our neighborhoods and our parks," Wiener said.

"Prior to the construction," Wiener said later, "there was an unsanctioned trail that wasn't particularly safe or environmentally friendly."

Betsy Eddy, a member of Friends of Walter Haas Park (and president of the Diamond Heights Community Association), pointed to what formerly passed for a scrabbly trail plummeting haphazardly down to Beacon Street. "I only tried the old trail twice," she said, smiling ruefully, "and that was by sliding down on the seat of my pants."

"The new trail now connects us safely," she said, referring to the new switchbacks. "I especially want to thank neighbor Fred LaCosse and Lisa



Scott Wiener, Phil Ginsburg, Fred LaCosse, Betsy Eddy and Mark Buell during the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the Beacon Trail. Photos by Murray Schneider

Wayne, who chaired several community meetings."

Wayne is a 2014 recipient of a SPUR Good Government Award.

LaCosse, a former KRON news-caster, lives on Beacon Street, and for years he has assisted the Natural Areas Program in maintaining and restoring park habitat. Recently, along with Wayne, he assisted as a planning and design facilitator, brokering compromises and nudging neighbors toward solutions that bridged Upper Noe privacy concerns with issues of community accessibility.

"I want to thank Fred," said RPD Commission president Mark Buell. "He helped us move people without violating neighborhood rights."

"Rec and Park was sincere, particularly Lisa Wayne," LaCosse said after the ceremony. His wife, former KRON broadcaster Terry Lowry, stood by his side.

With the imprimatur of the Diamond Heights Community Association, the community-driven project addresses two key parts of Rec and Park's strategic plan: Increasing interconnectivity on City parkland, and maintaining San Francisco's urban trail network while strengthening the quality of parks and facilities.

Ginsburg, before leading walkers along the new trail down to Beacon Street, said, "Trails such as this connect us to nature, serve as a place where people can walk safely and meet neighbors."

At a time when San Francisco residential property is at a premium, public spaces such as the Beacon Trail connector perform as a conduit, one that contributes to community and gets us

to smell the flowers along the way.

"It's a bit off the grid," said Ginsburg, who will allocate man-hour resources to pushing back invasive Himalayan ivy threatening the path. "This trail connects us to nature; it connects us together."

Who could argue with that?

Certainly not the two young women who parked their car on Beacon Street only two days later. They weren't Glen Park or Diamond Heights residents;

in fact, both originally came from India. One now lives in Union City. Her friend was a visitor from Toronto. They'd made Billy Goat Hill a destination.

They approached a couple on their Saturday morning constitutional. Below them, down the steep hill, Laidley Street cut a picturesque swath between its northern end at 30th Street and the Harry Street steps that rise from Laidley to Beacon Street.

"We've come to see the swing," the East Bay resident announced.

Halfway down the hill, the foursome stopped. The swing, an amusement unauthorized by Rec and Park and popularized on social media, had been severed from its ropes, a common Rec and Park action to protect park users' safety. The ropes of the unapproved swing now dangled in the air.

Disappointed, the two out-of-towners accepted a consolation prize—the vista. Bernal Hill loomed large, a backdrop across the Noe Valley that glistened in the morning sunshine.

Fittingly, it wasn't left for Phil Ginsburg to get in the last word about Billy Goat Hill's sublime views.

The young woman from Union City, taking it all in, simply whispered, "Wow!" ❖



A dog-walker uses the new 74-step Beacon Trail to head up toward the Walter Haas playground.



# GPA Quarterly Meeting News and Notes

The summer meeting of the Glen Park Association covered a number of topics, new and old, that are of interest to Glen Park residents.

## GPA Grants

GPA President Michael Rice presented a \$2,000 grant to the San Francisco Mime Troupe, which performed in Glen Canyon Park in August. The grant defrayed the cost of the use of the park, which is \$770 per day plus a \$500 deposit.

Other awards presented earlier as part of a three-year-old program funded by the GPA went to Sunnyside Elementary School and Friends of Penny Lane.

Mime Troupe writer and sometime-director Michael Gene Sullivan accepted the award. Sullivan explained that the Troupe does political musical comedy, and not silently: "We are the loudest mimes in the world!" This "Schooled," about the privatization of education.

It questioned whether the purpose of school is to load kids up with information, to provide a place to put them when their parents are at work, or to create a generation of consumers—or citizens.

## Tree Planting

Rice announced that Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), which works with neighborhoods to increase tree planting in San Francisco, planned to have a tree-planting day in September, in the Glen Park, Miraloma and Mt. Davidson neighborhoods. The application deadline was in August.

FUF accepts requests for tree planting on frontages of a minimum of 6.5 feet. They evaluate the sidewalk for suitability. The cost is a sliding scale of \$300–\$500, with a minimum of \$135. This covers the cost to open the sidewalk, install the tree and maintain it on an on-call basis for three to five years.

For information: [www.fuf.net/programs-services/greening/neighborhood-tree-planting/](http://www.fuf.net/programs-services/greening/neighborhood-tree-planting/)

For application: [www.fuf.net/programs-services/greening/neighborhood-tree-planting/tree-planting-forms/](http://www.fuf.net/programs-services/greening/neighborhood-tree-planting/tree-planting-forms/)

## CleanPowerSF

The meeting audience needed to turn its conscious awareness up a notch for the next presentation, by Amy Sinclair from the S.F. Public Utilities Commission. She explained the CleanPowerSF program. The main points of the program are:

- CleanPowerSF refers to San Francisco's participation in the Community Choice Aggregation program, which allows cities to partner with their utility (PG&E) to deliver cleaner energy.
- It's a partnership between San

Francisco and PG&E, administered by the City. Marin and Sonoma counties have this program already.

- PG&E will still be responsible for handling outages and its regular services.
- The goal of the program is to increase the use of renewable energy, mainly wind and solar. The City now uses 29.5 percent renewable energy. CleanPowerSF aims to push that up to 35 percent.
- The renewable energy will go into PG&E's existing power grid. The analogy is that the grid is like a bathtub. PG&E is putting 29.5 percent renewable energy into the tub. CleanPowerSF will add significantly more, to at least 35 percent.
- This program does not include individual incentives or benefits, such as putting solar panels on individual homes.
- Individual customers will not see any change in their service or their payments with the 35 percent renewables. Billing statements will be more detailed.
- The program will be auto-enrolled, as authorized by state law passed in 2002. It will be phased in over six years. However, customers will have four opportunities to opt out of the program—that is, to use plain-vanilla PG&E. But there is no cost benefit to the customer in doing so.
- Customers can enroll on their own initiative, online or by phone.
- There is a higher tier to the program, called SuperGreen, whose goal is to deliver 100 percent renewable energy. It is optional and will cost customers about \$6 more per month.
- It's not the individual customer getting 35 percent or 100 percent renewable energy; it's the overall power grid.
- The program tries to source its energy locally as much as possible, from rooftops and reservoirs, like Sunset Reservoir, and the Altamont wind farm, for example. The further away the energy source is, the more the energy "bleeds off" by the time it reaches its destination.

- CleanPowerSF will create local jobs by building facilities and introducing new technology.
- San Francisco Supervisorial District 8—which includes Glen Park—will be an early participant in the six-year phase. This fall, district residents will get the first of four notices explaining the program.
- For information, go to [cleanpowersf.org](http://cleanpowersf.org).

## Pedestrian Improvement Plans

One of the major traffic and pedestrian problems plaguing Glen Park is the lack of a crosswalk on upper Elk Street, between Arbor and Sussex streets, for access to Glen Canyon Park. The steep grade of Elk Street and inadequate sightlines are a safety hazard that residents have long endured.

Casey Hildreth and Kimberly Leung of the Livable Streets division of SFMTA presented some alternatives for mitigating this long-standing situation.

They proposed five options, which could be combined in various ways, and solicited reactions and ideas from the meeting attendees.

The consensus of those in attendance was that something simple should be done right away, in advance of a permanent solution. Installing a pedestrian crossing sign and an advance warning sign would help in the short term.

Several people voiced their antipathy about bulb outs, which seem ineffective and also reduce parking space and may even increase accidents. Stop signs have their pros and cons in terms of speed control.

Many favored the rectangular rapid flashing-beacon option. Another suggestion was a flashing sign that shows a vehicle's speed and encourages the driver to slow down.

Long-term fixes will require more study and must comply with ADA requirements.

The process of finding a solution begins with the feedback the SFMTA receives at community meetings in Glen Park and Diamond Heights. Then there will be other public outreach efforts, more feedback, draft recommendations, a formal public hearing and funding requests. The project could take 18 months to begin, depending on the complexity of the final plan.

Meanwhile, the patience of neighborhood residents is tested as they wait for pedestrian safety solutions to become reality on Elk Street. ❖

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# Will Mission Blue Return to Glen Canyon?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

1976, and is protected under U.S. law.

Will the mission blue ever return to Glen Canyon? “There needs to be a lot of work before we can even think of that happening,” said Liam O’Brien, illustrator, lepidopterist (a person who studies or collects butterflies and moths) and conservationist.

First noted by Pierre Lorquin, who came to Northern California during the Gold Rush, the mission blue was one of 13 new types of butterflies and moths he discovered while surveying the area on his trip to and then through San Francisco, up Market Street to Twin Peaks.

“He put us on the map,” O’Brien said. In fact, in butterfly circles, the City by the Bay is well-known for its butterfly diversity. It also bears the dubious distinction of being the location of the first known instance where a butterfly was pushed to extinction by humans. This was the Xerces blue, which disappeared from the planet in the 1940s.

Evelyn Rose, founder of the Glen Park History Project, said the history of the canyon ecosystem, its flora and fauna, is “incredibly important” to the overall history of the neighborhood. “There are areas of Glen Canyon and O’Shaughnessy Hollow that still support remnants of native scrub and grassland, along with other plants and animals, that made up our prehistoric landscape. Several of our plants, insects and reptiles are classified as endangered, and these habitats are extremely important for their survival.”

Recently, Glen Park residents have reported seeing blue butterflies in the canyon or in their yards. These are not, however, mission blues. O’Brien said they are probably seeing the acmon blue, which has an orange band, or the echo blue.

In an effort to beckon the mission blue back, neighbors have planted its one and only plant of choice: the lupine (silver, summer, and varicolored).

Vicki Engel is doing her small part, but acknowledged the uphill battle, saying, “I planted a native lupine, but you may need an environment to attract the mission blue. I think we’d need a neighborhood-wide effort to attract the mission blue.”

While well-intentioned, O’Brien said simply planting its host plant will not initiate their return. When they were designated an endangered species 40 years ago, there was no firm plan to re-establish the rare butterfly in areas



A female Mission Blue butterfly.

Photo by Stuart Weiss, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

where it once thrived. There still isn’t a plan.

Several factors need to come together. First, there needs to be a “continuous corridor, horizontal or vertical,” O’Brien said. And while the Creeks to Peaks trail project is a step in the right direction, the butterfly will not simply sail into the canyon on its own, even if the area is littered with lupine.

“It would be jaw-droppingly spectacular to connect Twin Peaks to Glen Canyon to Mount Sutro for the butterfly,” O’Brien said. “I don’t know if ultimately they would thrive because of the urban nature of the area.”

Also, this butterfly is not a high-flying creature like the one in Bastin’s poem. It stays close to the ground, so making the trip from Twin Peaks

to Glen Canyon would not be in its nature.

“Mission blue butterflies are not agile and are poor flyers. Add this into an urban matrix, and it’s even more difficult for them to successfully disperse. Is there a zero chance? No, but it’s very, very unlikely. A corridor of lupines would likely help,” said Lech Naumovich of

the Golden Hour Restoration Institute, an educational nonprofit focused on conservation and nature.

Then there’s the lupine. While at least half of butterfly species have adapted to the ever-changing environment—choosing another plant when its preferred one cannot be found—the mission blue is not one of them. While adults drink flower nectar from buckwheat, golden asters, wild hyacinths

and other plants, the caterpillars eat only lupine. The invasion of non-native plants is yet another threat to the butterfly’s future.

“The aggressive non-native plants will wipe out native plants. Butterflies are highly opportunistic creatures,” O’Brien said.

Next, there would need to be several of them, and particularly, breeding females. If a rogue butterfly actually did come to the canyon, it would need to bring several friends along for the fight.

After years of documenting the declining population of the Twin Peaks colony, a plan was set in motion to transport some of the San Bruno winged residents there, hoping to repopulate the windy hilltops.

According to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the population at San Bruno Mountain is 18,000 while Twin Peaks has about 500. The San Francisco Recreation and Park Department has had limited success reintroducing the mission blue to Twin Peaks, leading some to wonder whether Glen Canyon could be the next target location to re-introduce the mission blue.

In terms of the future, Rose said, “It’s the natural character of our neighborhood that distinguishes Glen Park from other neighborhoods in the city. Change will happen over time, as it always does—it’s one of the essential elements of history.

However, I think we need to remain vigilant over time as our neighborhood continues to advance through the coming decades to maintain the suburban, almost rural feel of our neighborhood character.”

O’Brien wasn’t shy in sharing his hope. “I dream of seeing them back in the canyon,” he said. “It has been broached, but it’s slow to happen because it’s federally listed.” That means any plans would have to be approved by government agencies.

“Their return would be very significant. But more than a single individual, it would truly be remarkable if a population got established there and was observed over the course of three to five years,” Naumovich added.

O’Brien cautioned, however, the motive for the move. “Butterflies are not here for our pleasure. They are not here for the human circus. [We need to ensure] we can provide a sustainable habitat rather than something that makes us happy. It’s a complicated creature. It would be amazing.” ❖

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WILL THE MISSION BLUE EVER  
RETURN TO GLEN CANYON?  
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# Glen Park Festival Gives Back to Kids

The 18th annual Glen Park Festival, held this April, drew thousands of families and festivalgoers from the surrounding area on a sunny and gusty day along Diamond and Wilder streets.

Visitors browsed vendor booths, flocked to family activities, queued up at food trucks, danced to live music, and purchased T-shirts and raffle tickets—raising more than \$14,000 for children's and community causes. Special thanks also go to the festival's major sponsors and donors.

Here's who benefited:

- Centro Las Olas Preschool: \$500 to buy art supplies for its classroom.
- Commodore Sloat Elementary School: \$2,000 to renovate a learning space for third and fourth grades, including a rug, tabletop learning materials and a display case for student work.
- Fairmount Elementary School: \$2,000 for Dia de Los Muertos and Baile Familiar community-building events.
- Glen Park Elementary School: \$2,000 to create an eco-friendly cleaning team and sustainable garden area, including planters and benches for the lower yard, a weather-proof outdoor

bulletin board, and chicken coop repairs.

- Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School: \$500 to purchase learning toys for curriculum, including magnetic blocks, a funnel stand for sensory table, a wild animal set and a Lego mini-figure set.
- Miraloma Cooperative Nursery School: \$1,500 to purchase three microscopes for children to use to enhance their learning of science.
- Monroe Elementary School: \$2,000 to buy art supplies, cooking supplies and garden supplies for students.
- Noe Valley Nursery School: \$800 to purchase new toys and equipment for learning spaces, including dramatic play, a fine motor area and an outdoor play area.
- St. Finn Bar Catholic School: \$1,000 to build a small garden as an outdoor learning area.
- Sunnyside Elementary School: \$2,000 to purchase refurbished iPads for two special education classrooms to help students with severe learning impairments.

Follow news about the Glen Park Festival on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Glen-Park-Festival-Association-309438762188>. For more information, call 415-729-4059 or email the festival at [inquiries@glen-parkfestival.com](mailto:inquiries@glen-parkfestival.com). ❖



Performers entertain the crowd at the 18th annual Glen Park Festival in April.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf



# Changes Coming to Local Business District

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some of the equipment, including an X-ray machine. The clinic will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

If demand calls for it, those hours may be adjusted, said Chuck Kruger, president of Northern California marketing for GoHealth, an Atlanta-based chain. If someone's condition cannot be handled on site, transfers to full-service hospitals will be arranged. Electronic records will be integrated with the patient's on-line health records.

The clinic is not intended to be a substitute for primary care—annual checkups, routine testing and the like, Kruger said. Locally, it is in partnership with Dignity Health, a health network that manages St. Mary's and St. Francis hospitals.

Kruger was speaking in the small lobby of the first San Francisco outlet, on Market Street near Noe Street. He pointed out the high-tech features on offer for patients, including a wall-mounted computer screen that allows a patient to see any X-rays and follow the entries made by the doctor as a visit progresses. The four consultation rooms have transparent glass walls that turn opaque at the flip of a switch.

A small lab allows for testing for simple on-site diagnoses, such as strep throat and pregnancy. Blood samples can be taken, but the lab work for blood tests will be done elsewhere. Most insurance plans, including Medicare and MediCal, are accepted. The new Glen Park clinic will have the same facilities and a similar layout.

"Glen Park is a great example of the type of neighborhood we want to be part of," Kruger said. There's a substantial population and no other urgent-care facility already here. The corner of Bosworth and Diamond has high visibility and a lot of foot traffic, and the location by a BART station and several bus lines is a plus.

Eventually, there are plans for seven GoHealth clinics around the city—the existing one at Market and Noe, the new one in our neighborhood, others in nearby Cole Valley and the Excelsior, plus several more on the Peninsula. Advance appointments are not necessary. Would-be patients can call or check online to see what the waiting times are at each branch and, if necessary, switch to another destination, Kruger said.

## Chenery Park Building

When Glen Park neighbors came together in early July to say farewell to



Glen Park Hardware store during the final day of business on Aug. 31.

Photo by Gail Bensinger

Hal and Susan Tauber, owners of the hardware store, they got to eat and drink one last time at the old Chenery Park restaurant site at 683 Chenery St. Tables of donated goodies from local restaurants and shops reminded everyone of what the neighborhood has been missing since Chenery Park abruptly shut down just before Christmas in 2014.

Mary Painter, the owner of the building, has hired a Glen Park architect to draw plans for another restaurant space, plus four apartments—on two levels—upstairs. The green tile facade will remain, but the entire interior will be gutted and rebuilt.

Painter, a one-time San Franciscan who now lives in New York, said of the building, "I'm not selling—it's been in our family for years."

Her sister owns the next-door building that housed the hardware store; they each inherited the real estate from their father. Earlier, the Chenery Park site housed a meat market, a laundromat and a pizza parlor.

Carl Scheidenhelm, a Glen Park resident and the principal architect at SF Architecture, is handling the rehabilitation job. The small firm has offices above Pebbles Cafe on Diamond Street. He said the existing ground-floor restaurant space will be gutted and new infrastructure, including an ADA-equipped restroom and a new exhaust system, will be installed.

The new apartments—two one-bedrooms, two studios—will be "nice urban units" but not luxurious, he

said. The entrance to the new flats will be on Wilder Street, and the back of the building will be rebuilt. "We can't treat the back as an ugly duckling," Scheidenhelm said.

The lot is only 25 by 80 feet, he said, and the structure will keep the same footprint. No garage space will be provided. Under current Planning Department rules, Scheidenhelm said, on-site parking is not required.

Whoever takes over the restaurant space will install the new kitchen and furnish the dining space. That site will also have access to the basement for food refrigeration and storage.

This being San Francisco, the reconstruction won't start anytime soon. There will be pre-application neighborhood input, then final plans need to be vetted by the Planning Department. There will be a public meeting on those plans—"I imagine we will hear objections," Scheidenhelm said. After those issues are addressed, then comes submission of an application for construction.

Once a site permit is issued, an engineer will do a detailed study of the project, then actual construction will probably take six to nine months. "Two years from now," Scheidenhelm said, if all goes smoothly, the old Chenery Park space "could have a restaurant tenant."

## Glen Park Hardware Closes

Glen Park Hardware, under the ownership of Hal and Susan Tauber, closed on schedule on Aug. 31. (See Glen Park News, Summer 2016 edition.) But as

of press-time, a potential customer had emerged, although the deal was far from cemented.

Meanwhile, following a month of clearance sales, the stock was depleted. Susan Tauber said the landlady had given them access to the site for the month of September to disassemble the last of the merchandise and clear out the building for whatever comes next. Then the Taubers begin their retirement in earnest.

Neighbors and loyal customers spent the final days coming in to stock up on necessities and say goodbye to the friendly family who had kept the neighborhood well equipped for 38 years.

## Changes at Rockit Swirl

The frozen yogurt stays, but the giant television screen and the huge shoe go. The row of gumball machines is safe—for now.

Owner Mark Fuentes doesn't have kids of his own, but he does have six godchildren.

That makes him determined to keep Rockit Swirl, his snack-food shop at 2810 Diamond St. open as a family-oriented eatery and gathering place. But he agrees the eatery needs an update.

So with the help of new partners, whom he was reluctant to name until the final details of the arrangement are set, the menu and the dining room are in for an overhaul.

There will be new tables and chairs and new paint on the walls, and a protected play area for toddlers.

The new menu items, to be introduced slowly, will probably include salads and other grown-up-friendly fare. "We still want to keep it as a place for kids," said Fuentes, who also has part-interest in a bar on Potrero Hill.

The staff will all keep their jobs. The changes will be implemented slowly, but by November, everything new should be up and running.

## Other Business District Changes

Meanwhile, the "Opening Soon" sign disappeared at 636 Chenery St., home of Tree Hut, a wooden watch and sunglasses web business. The place never did open, but the papered-over windows hid a service business for filling on-line orders.

It reportedly departed for larger quarters. And a rare "For Rent" sign appeared next door advertising available office space at 642 Chenery St. ♦



# Stolen Bicycle Odyssey Ends in Glen Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

therapist around the Bay Area.

What he didn't know was that the same evening, around 8 o'clock, someone had shot off a large firecracker in San Francisco's Glen Park. The booming explosion sent neighbor Kate Evans outside to investigate.

She didn't find the source of the explosion, but she did see something metal leaning up against a planter at the corner of Brompton and Chenery streets.

Walking over, she realized it was a folded-up bike.

"It looked fancy enough that I didn't think someone left it there as a giveaway," she said.

Evans brought the bike into her house, where by a remarkable coincidence she noticed its brand name: Brompton.

A Brompton on Brompton.

"I thought maybe it belonged to someone who lived on Brompton and they had left it out by accident," she told the Glen Park News.

Taking a closer look, she saw that the bike was a limited "Nickle Edition." Only 1,500 were made and it had a

serial number. Monday was a holiday, but on Tuesday Evans decided to do a little online sleuthing.

"With that much identifying information, I figured it would be easy to find the owner. I found a list online of bike shops that carry the Brompton Nickel Edition, I called one of them up (in Fremont) and told them about the bike," she said.

Meanwhile, across the Bay in Berkeley, Mike had filed a police report about his missing bike, and friends in the bike club had been scouring Bay Area stolen bike reports to see if his turned up.

When nothing did, Mike figured there was no hope and called Perennial Cycle, the Minneapolis bike shop where he ordered his lost bike, and started the process of getting another built to his specifications.

By this time, Evans had texted a photo of the bike's nameplate to the Fremont shop, which in turn sent it along to Brompton, which is based in London.

Calls and emails were flying between Glen Park, Fremont and London. Within 24 hours, Brompton, the bike

manufacturer, had found the serial number and discovered the shop where Mike bought his bike.

Back in Berkeley, Mike was well into the process of working with that same shop to finalize the details on a replacement bike when he got an odd message from his contact there. "It said, 'You're going to get a really nice phone call, so be sure to answer,'" he told the Glen Park News.

Mike thought maybe the shop's manager was going to call to say he was getting a discount because his first Brompton had been stolen.

So when the phone in his office rang at noon on Thursday, he picked up.

But instead of the manager, it was a woman in Glen Park, calling to say she had his bike and asking would he like to come over and get it?

"I was just stunned," he said. "I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I was completely elated."

That night he took BART to Glen Park where he met Evans and her husband David. They showed him where she'd found the bike, and the trio spent some fruitless minutes trying to figure out how the bike had possibly gotten from Berkeley to Glen Park in the less than 90 minutes between when Mike's car was broken into and when Evans came out to see what had blown up.

Ultimately, the mystery of how a bike made by Brompton Bicycle Ltd. in London and stolen in Berkeley happened to end up 20 miles away on Brompton Street in Glen Park, a mere 90 minutes after the smash-and-grab robbery, remains unsolved.

But the wonder of how his bike came back to him has not left Mike, even a month after it was stolen. "I just keep thinking: Wow, despite everything bad that's happening in the world, there really are good people out there." ♦



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Kate and David Evans, standing at the corner of Brompton and Chenery Streets, with the stolen folding Brompton bike that Kate found on the street.



## ❖ NEWS FROM DIAMOND HEIGHTS ❖

The Diamond Heights Boulevard median project is moving forward. The median islands along the 5200 and 5300 blocks have been cleared, tilled and mulched in preparation for planting. High-quality weed-barrier fabric was installed above the soil and under the mulch.

by  
Betsy  
Eddy

Several leaks were discovered in the existing irrigation system, which had been unused for more than two decades. While the Department of Public Works is working to fix the leaks, installation of new plants has been postponed. Once the pipes have been repaired, drip irrigation will be installed.

In September, volunteers will work with the Friends of the Urban Forest to plant 14 Canary Island pines on the islands. Paul Matalucci, the project leader, has gathered an enthusiastic band of volunteers, but more are needed for Saturday planting days (See [www.dhbmmedian.wordpress.com](http://www.dhbmmedian.wordpress.com) for dates).

A hot lunch and beverages are provided, along with tools, gloves and kneepads. No experience is required, just a positive attitude and a desire to help. To volunteer or make a donation, contact Paul at [paul@wordwc.com](mailto:paul@wordwc.com) or 415-826-0445.

**Litter Prevention Campaign:** The Diamond Heights Community Association (DHCA) is promoting the vision that people traveling along Diamond Heights Boulevard will see less trash on the hillsides and medians. The association has identified several



A two-year look at one stretch of the Diamond Heights Boulevard median project.

Photos by Paul Matalucci

areas where trash accumulates, particularly the hillside on the 5300 block where wind patterns blow litter up the hill.

At the DHCA meeting on Aug. 9, residents discussed possible solutions, including a poster campaign to bolster community pride in a trash-free neighborhood, meeting with Recology to see if there are ways to prevent litter escaping when garbage is picked up, planting a hedge to catch the garbage and creating a volunteer pool to pick up trash on a regular basis.

The DHCA thanks the volunteers who pick up trash, including Paul Matalucci and his median project volunteers, as well as Recreation & Parks and Public Works department crews who pick up trash on the hillside in response to 311 requests.

**George Christopher Playground Renovations:** The Recreation and Parks Department announced that

three quarters of the pathways around the baseball diamond will be resurfaced and/or patched this fall. The paths adjacent to the play structures will be resurfaced when new play structures are constructed, between December 2017 and December 2018. Replacing the crumbling and unsafe paths was a major need cited in community meetings Rec & Park held to receive input on the playground renovations. The pathway resurfacing was not included in funding from the 2012 Park Bond ballot measure.

Christopher park is between the Diamond Heights Shopping Center and the rim of Glen Canyon, The Friends of Christopher Park and the DHCA will continue to seek funding for other needs not included in the park bond, including resurfacing all pathways, replacing deteriorating benches and renovating the second restroom in the Rec Center. ❖

*Betsy Eddy is president of the Diamond Heights Community Association. Contact her at [dhcasf@gmail.com](mailto:dhcasf@gmail.com).*



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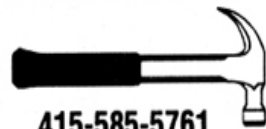
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## ❖ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS ❖

**Glen Park Elementary School**

The school year is off to a fabulous start at Glen Park Elementary School. We welcomed new kindergarteners into our school family and greeted old friends as we kicked off the 2016-17 year with our enthusiastic principal, Jean Robertson, and our dedicated teachers and staff. The incredible number of families who arrive for morning welcome each day prove that Glen Park School is starting strong. We can't wait to see what the coming year brings!

Our first event, the Welcome BBQ, was a great success. Thank you to the volunteers who grilled, chopped, served, deejayed, sold shirts and cleaned up. So many families turned out that we ran out of hot dogs! Our events are enjoyable ways to come together as a community while building a stronger school and a bright future for our students.

More fun events are coming: Walk and

Roll to School days, STEAM nights, the Halloween Parade, silent auction, book fairs and Runathon are already in the planning stages. Funds collected from these events and donations throughout the year help to support a full-time librarian, the fresh snack program, outdoor education and many other wonderful classroom supports and enrichments at our school. Special thanks to the Glen Park Festival for its generous grant this year. The money we received will provide new planters and benches for the yard, an outdoor bulletin board to announce events, and repairs of the chicken coop before winter rains come. Our feathered friends thank the Glen Park Festival as well!

Families who hope to join the Glen Park School community for the 2017-18 school year can attend hour-long tours beginning on Tuesday, Oct. 4 starting at 9 a.m. Tours are led by our principal each Tuesday through Dec. 13. Reservations are not needed. We



The morning circle at Sunnyside Elementary School.

Photo by Kerri Spruston

encourage all prospective parents to attend our lively morning welcome in the Brompton Street yard at 8:40 a.m. It is an excellent time to see our fantastic school in action.❖

*Katie Ripley is the communications chair of the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization. For updates on school events, see [glenparkschool.org](http://glenparkschool.org).*

**Sunnyside Elementary School**

Welcome back to school to all Glen Park students and families! We at Sunnyside are excited about the new school year. The energy in our school is great, and we all anticipate an awesome year. Mornings at Sunnyside look a little different this year. Now that the yard renovations are complete, we have room to do a giant morning circle where everyone can be

engaged and feel like part of our loving community. All of our upper classes are being paired with younger classrooms so that everyone has a big buddy or little buddy. We feel that this is a great way to bond and have our community feel a little more like family. We all love seeing the little kindergarteners see their big buddy in the neighborhood and give a giant hello and hug.

We are busy getting soccer teams, baseball teams and more set up so that our school community blends into our neighborhood community. So far we have five soccer teams, which will be practicing in Glen Canyon Park on Friday afternoons. If you happen to be at the park on Fridays, stop by and say hello.

We have two special day classes for students with moderate to severe disabilities, one for K-2 students and one for grades 3-5 students. One reason they are thriving is because of the grants we have received from the Glen Park Festival and the Glen Park Association. Both grants have gone toward purchasing communication software, iPads and other technology for these classrooms. We are very grateful for this help, as it makes learning for the students so much better.

Our school year has just begun, but we are already all set for our tours for next year's incoming kindergarten families. Tours this year will begin Oct. 5, and will take place every Wednesday through the fall. If you are interested, please check the school website, [www.sunnysidek5.org](http://www.sunnysidek5.org), for information and sign-up sheets.❖

*Kerri Spruston is president of the Sunnyside Elementary School Parent-Teachers Association.*

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## Synergy School



Open House  
Saturday, December 10  
11 AM - 1 PM

K-8 Progressive Education

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## Long-time Postman Leaves Glen Park after 17 Years



Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night has stayed Wilson Pagaduan from the swift completion of his appointed rounds in Glen Park during the past 17 years. But many of the friends he's made on his mail route in the Diamond Street area have slowed him down frequently, for quick chats. After farewells to friends—including Ron Yee, above left—our popular postman made his last deliveries here on Saturday, Sept. 10. He also said goodbye to his onerous commute from Vallejo, where he lives with his wife and three kids, and where he has a new route—and scores of potential new friends.

**Photo by Denis Wade**

## Join the Glen Park Association To Support Our Neighborhood

Have we got a gift idea for you: A Glen Park Association membership! You can join for just \$10 a year. What does that get you? A right to help select association leadership, information on upcoming meetings and, most important, a chance to support an active neighborhood organization that looks out for the interests of Glen Park.

The Glen Park Association maintains a blog, [glenparknews.wordpress.com](http://glenparknews.wordpress.com), a Twitter account, <https://twitter.com/GlenParkNews>, and a bulletin board, [groups.yahoo.com/group/glenparkbulletinboard](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/glenparkbulletinboard). The association also publishes the Glen Park News.

To become a member or to renew your membership, send a \$10 check to: GPA, P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131. Please include your home address and email address for our records.

More information can be found at [www.glenparkassociation.org](http://www.glenparkassociation.org). ❖

## MARC DICKOW

Broker, Realtor, Partner



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As a Glen Park resident I really do know how best to market your property. I can help you from preparing your home to put on the market through the close of escrow and everything in between. —MARC DICKOW

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“and well-organized. He was also very considerate and patient in answering all of my questions. In addition, he is well-connected, which allowed me the opportunity to get a special, personal tour of a beautiful historic building, and a sneak peak at units before they were about to be listed. I never felt pressured. I highly recommend him to anyone who is buying or selling a home, and looking for an experienced, professional, knowledgeable, friendly, and patient real estate agent.” —E.W., Buyer

A portion of each of Marc's commissions go to fund projects for his Core Concern:  
**THE RUTH ASAWA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**





❖ GLEN PARK REAL ESTATE ❖

There's safety in neighbors. Looking out for each other helps keep Glen Park one of the most desirable neighborhoods in San Francisco.

But first, here is the market update. It's been a very busy summer. Between May 18 and Aug. 14, we had a total of 27 sales in Glen Park. Single-family homes accounted for 19 of those, six were condominiums and two were TICs (tenancy-in-common). That's 125 percent more activity than last quarter, in part because there was more inventory.

The average sale price for single-family homes was \$1,666,368, which is up about 12 percent from last quarter. The average sale price was about 9 percent over the list price. That's quite a bit lower than at anytime in the last year or two. I believe it's an indication that prices are starting to level out a bit.

While most homes still sold over the asking price, the overage wasn't nearly as much as it has been. The average days on market were also up during this period, at 27. That's up from 19 days on market from the last quarter, a 42 percent increase. During this time, the median list price in Glen Park was \$1,495,000, and the median sale price was \$1,510,000.

Interestingly, sale prices in the neighborhood are down about 9 percent this year, as opposed to January through August of 2015. This definitely suggests a cooling in the market, as we've been predicting. Entry-level homes (less than \$1 million) remain in a seller's market, but some luxury and move-up markets show signs of shifting, such as more days on market and price changes. Having said that, I conclude the market remains extremely strong, but a normalizing is happening—a good thing.

Now let's talk home security.

Single-Family Homes					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
56 Harper St.	5/27/16	18	\$1,595,000	\$1,675,000	105.02%
175 Stillings Ave.	6/2/16	42	\$1,402,250	\$1,335,000	95.20%
838 Detroit St.	6/3/16	29	\$1,495,000	\$1,685,000	112.71%
205 Chenery St.	6/6/16	47	\$1,599,000	\$1,600,000	100.06%
2469 Diamond St.	6/7/16	31	\$1,395,000	\$1,395,000	100.00%
526 Chenery St.	6/10/16	10	\$1,395,000	\$1,510,000	108.24%
118 Melrose Ave.	6/14/16	27	\$1,195,000	\$1,350,000	112.97%
1753 Noe St.	6/16/16	20	\$1,795,000	\$1,795,000	100.00%
1712 Noe St.	6/17/16	57	\$1,795,000	\$1,950,000	108.64%
95 Melrose Ave.	6/17/16	31	\$1,249,000	\$1,510,000	120.90%
348 Sussex St.	6/21/16	8	\$1,495,000	\$1,600,000	107.02%
278 Chenery St.	6/28/16	19	\$996,000	\$1,185,000	118.98%
1858 Church St.	7/1/16	9	\$948,000	\$1,380,000	145.57%
79 Arbor St.	7/6/16	7	\$2,399,000	\$2,575,000	107.34%
1871 Church St.	7/7/16	11	\$1,495,000	\$1,475,000	98.66%
801 Congo St.	7/8/16	32	\$1,499,000	\$1,400,000	93.40%
145 Farnum St.	7/22/16	56	\$950,000	\$1,061,000	111.68%
171 Sussex St.	7/28/16	44	\$1,859,000	\$1,880,000	101.13%
210 Beacon St.	8/8/16	11	\$2,398,000	\$3,300,000	137.61%
Condominiums/Multi-Unit Buildings					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
3 Valletta Ct.	6/2/16	21	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	100.00%
78-80 Malta Dr. #80 - TIC	6/21/16	60	\$1,099,000	\$1,175,000	106.92%
100 Everson St.	7/1/16	25	\$959,000	\$1,050,000	109.49%
85 Miguel St.	7/11/16	11	\$795,000	\$1,095,000	137.74%
200 Randall St.	7/15/16	16	\$950,000	\$951,888	100.20%
821 Bosworth St.- TIC	7/19/16	53	\$699,000	\$699,000	100.00%
87 Miguel St.	7/26/16	42	\$1,195,000	\$1,100,000	92.05%
207-A Randall St.	8/9/16	10	\$1,195,000	\$1,380,000	115.48%
DOM - Days on market			SP/LP - % over list price		

I've been to a lot of neighborhood meetings all over the city, and questions about home and neighborhood security keep coming up. We are fortunate in Glen Park to be in a pretty safe area, but we do see our share of crime. One of the best tips I got from former Chief of Police Greg Suhr was: Be aware of your surroundings. It seems like a simple thing, but so many of us are walking around with our faces buried in smartphones that we hardly know what street we are on. Do yourself a favor—look around when you are walking instead checking your Facebook account or texting or playing Pokémon Go. Just knowing what's around you can help keep you safe.

Another good way to

help secure your house is to install and leave an outside light on at night. Again, a super-simple idea, but when I walk down my street, only a handful of houses have a light on. The cost of keeping your front-door light on at night is minimal, especially with new LED bulbs, which will fit in almost any standard lighting fixture. If you are concerned about the electricity use, invest in motion sensor lighting that only goes on when someone walks by. I've been told by multiple police officers that having that light on or having it go on when someone goes by is a big deterrent to would-be thieves. It also helps to make streets safer for all our neighbors.

Another thing that has become a problem in the neighborhood—it recently happened to me—is package thieves who drive or walk around looking for packages left outside a front door and then snatch them. We get an organic produce delivery to our home each week, and a few weeks ago it wasn't there. I spoke with the company,

and sure enough they had delivered it. Then at some point in the wee hours it was stolen. I'm betting the thieves were hoping for something more than carrots, celery and beets. But the point is that we all need to be on the lookout for these folks and to be sure to call the police and report any suspicious activity. I've had a lot of friends tell me they've had packages taken from in front of their houses.

This is something that you should talk to your neighbors about so that everyone is on the same page. Looking out for each other is something that makes a really desirable neighborhood. Sometimes we get so caught up in our day-to-day stuff we forget to look around. (Is there a theme here?)

For those of us who have been doing some home remodeling, here again is another area where we should make sure to inform our neighbors and ask them to keep an eye on our homes, especially if we are not living there while construction is going on.

This is the same for those who are putting their homes on the market for sale and have already moved out. Make sure that someone is checking on your house frequently if you cannot. Again, neighbors are the best ones to look out for your home.

Last, there's been a surge in auto break-ins. It's the same old smash and grab routine. The simplest way to keep someone from wanting to break into your car: Keep your valuables out of view. Put them in the trunk or under a cover in your hatchback. If would-be thieves don't see anything worth taking, they'll usually pass up your car.


I know this all sounds obvious, but it's amazing how few people really think about these things until it's too late. Keep on eye out in the neighborhood and be aware of your surroundings. It really does take a village, and we have a great one!

Have a wonderful fall, and I'll see you in the neighborhood.

I'm pleased that this is an interactive column answering questions that you have, and writing about topics that are of interest to you as a reader. You can send any questions or topic requests to [news@glenparkassociation.org](mailto:news@glenparkassociation.org), [marc@opni.com](mailto:marc@opni.com), or The Glen Park News, 2912 Diamond St., No. 407, San Francisco, CA 94131. ❖

*Marc Dickow, a Glen Park resident is the Broker/Owner at Core7 Real Estate. He can be reached at [marc@opni.com](mailto:marc@opni.com), or by phone at 415-722-4018. His website is [www.altrockrealtor.com](http://www.altrockrealtor.com).*

### Historic Glen Park



The northwest corner of Diamond and Chenery in 1906, which is now Tyger's Coffee Shop.  
Photo courtesy SF Public Library.



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## ♦ COMMUNITY CALENDAR FALL 2016 ♦

### Every Monday

**Family Storytime & Playtime**  
4–5:30, *Glen Park Library*, 2825 *Diamond St.*  
Books, songs and fun for children of all ages.

### Every Tuesday

**Family Storytime & Playtime**  
10:30–11:30, *Glen Park Library*  
Books, songs and fun for children of all ages.

**Glen Park School Tours (starting Oct. 4)**  
9-10, *Glen Park School*  
Families who hope to join the Glen Park School community for the 2017-18 school year can attend hour-long tours are led by the school principal each Tuesday through Dec. 13. Reservations are not needed. We encourage all prospective parents to attend our lively morning welcome in the Brompton Street yard at 8:40 a.m.

### Every Wednesday

**Sunnyside School Tours (starting Oct. 5)**  
9-10:30, *Sunnyside School*, 250 *Foerster St.*  
Tours for 2017-18 incoming kindergarten families continue every Wednesday through the fall. For more information, please check the school website, [www.sunnysidek5.org](http://www.sunnysidek5.org)

**California Native Plant Society Work Parties**  
Noon-3, *Glen Canyon Park*

Volunteer activities include weeding, planting and general maintenance. Please wear closed-toed shoes, long pants and layers. The event will occur rain or shine. To RSVP, email [recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org](mailto:recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org) or call 415-831-6333.

**Book a Librarian**  
4-5, *Glen Park Library*,

Do you need personalized help using a computer or the Internet? Do you have questions on a topic not covered in one of our free computer classes or simply need more help with research or a specific computer or internet task? Call 415 355-2858 to book an appointment.

### Every Thursday

**Teen Time**  
3:30-5, *Glen Park Library*

**Canyon Moonlight**  
8-10, *Bird & Beckett (except Nov. 10 and 24)*  
A weekly concert series featuring rockabilly, country and folk. See [birdbeckett.com](http://birdbeckett.com) for performers. Now on Thursday nights.

### Every Friday

**Food Pantry**  
1–2 pm, *St. Aidan's Church*  
Volunteers run this free Food Pantry for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 zip code. This is just one of the many community activities St. Aidan's hosts. Others include yoga, AA, Al-Anon, Weight Watchers and other community groups. For details, visit [www.staidan.org](http://www.staidan.org) or call 415-285-9540.

**Jazz in the Bookshop**  
5:30–8, *Bird & Beckett*, 653 *Chenery St.*  
A neighborhood party every week, with live jazz. See [birdbeckett.com](http://birdbeckett.com) for performers.

### Every Saturday

**Jazz Club**  
7:30–10, *Bird & Beckett*  
A weekly jazz concert series. \$10 cover charge. Free food at the break; wine and beer available. See [birdbeckett.com](http://birdbeckett.com) for performers.

### Every Sunday

**Which Way West?**  
4:30–6:30, *Bird & Beckett*, 653 *Chenery St.*  
A weekly concert series offering jazz, acoustic Americana, world and classical music. \$10 per adult suggested donation; children free. No one turned away for lack of funds! See [birdbeckett.com](http://birdbeckett.com).  
Friday, September 16  
Great Teen Book Swap  
3:30-5, *Glen Park Library*

### Saturday, September 17

**Habitat Restoration Work Parties**  
9-11:30, 3rd *Saturday of the month. Meet at the Rec Center off Elk Street, Glen Canyon Park*  
Join the Friends of Glen Canyon Park and SFRPD gardeners for a monthly volunteer work party. For more information, email [recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org](mailto:recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org) or call 415-831-6333. Registration required.

**Art on the Go with The Contemporary Jewish Museum**  
2-4, *Glen Park Library*  
Inspired by Ned Kahn's Negev Wheel, families use sand and other art materials to create their desert environments.

### Sunday, September 18

**LEGO Free Play**  
2-4, *Glen Park*  
**Poet Diane Di Prima**  
2-3:30, *Bird & Beckett*

### Monday, September 19

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*  
Poets read, followed by open mic. This week featuring Cara Vida and Jennifer Barone. See [birdbeckett.com](http://birdbeckett.com) for more details.

### Tuesday, September 20

**SFPD Community Meetings**  
7–8 p.m., *location varies*  
The 3rd Tuesday of every month, Ingleside Station's commanding officer, Capt. Joseph McFadden, hosts a Community Relations Forum. Keep up to date on neighborhood police issues, get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe. For information, visit the website at [InglesidePoliceStation.com](http://InglesidePoliceStation.com) or call the station at 404-4050.

### Saturday, September 24

**Papel Picado Banners**  
2-3:30, *Glen Park Library*  
Come join us and design papel picado for a celebration of your own choice.

**Walking Tour, Sunnyside History Walk:**  
11-1, *Meet at Edna Street and Monterey Blvd, a short walk from Glen Park BART*  
A Walk Down Mid-Century Monterey Boulevard  
Suggested \$5 donation to support future GPNHP activities, or join the GPNHP (\$15 per year) and receive a pass to attend

**Grant Levin Duo**  
4-6, *Bird & Beckett*  
**Movie Night in the Park**  
7 p.m., *Glen Canyon Park*  
Sponsored by Sutter Health-CPMC. (See page 16.)

### Sunday, September 25

**Walker Talks!**  
2:30-4, *Bird & Beckett*  
Walker Brents III holds his audience spellbound with his wide-ranging investigations into topics literary, mythological and otherwise — in the past, his subjects have ranged from William Blake to Bob Dylan, Shakespeare to the Shanameh, the Kalevala to the story of Layla and Majnun...

### Monday, September 26

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*  
Poets read, followed by open mic. This week featuring poets David Meltzer and Julie Rogers with musicians Bill Crossman and Zan Stewart. See [birdbeckett.com](http://birdbeckett.com) for more details.

### Wednesday, September 28

**Resilient Diamond Heights**  
3:30-5. The workgroup rotates monthly meeting spaces. Call 415-285-9540 for location.

### Saturday, October 1

**Middle Eastern Food Festival**  
12 noon–10 pm, *St. Nicholas Church*, 5200 *Diamond Heights Blvd.*  
Great food and entertainment. Call 415-648-5200 for more information.

### Sunday, October 2

**Middle Eastern Food Festival**  
12 noon – 8 pm, *St. Nicholas Church*, 5200 *Diamond Heights Blvd.*  
(See October 1)

### Monday, October 3

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*  
(See September 19)

### Tuesday, October 4

**Homemade Corn Tortillas**  
3-5, *Glen Park Library*  
For children and families

### Wednesday, October 5

**Diamond Diners lunch and social hour**  
12-1, *St. Aidan's Church*, 101 *Gold Mine Drive*  
**LEGO Free Play**  
2-4, *Glen Park Library*

### Saturday, October 8

**Olmec, Maya, & Aztec Clay Plaque**  
2-3:30, *Glen Park Library*  
With Peopleologie's Linda Janklow  
**Grant Levin Duo**  
4-6, *Bird & Beckett*

**Walking Tour, Diamond Heights History Walk**  
*Details will be announced.*  
Suggested \$5 donation to support future GPNHP activities, or join the GPNHP (\$15 per year) and receive a pass to attend

### Sunday, October 9

**Poetry Reading by Kim Shuck**  
2-3, *Bird & Beckett*

### Wednesday, October 12

**Bird & Beckett Book Club**  
7-9, 2nd *Wednesday of the month, Bird & Beckett*  
A book is discussed each meeting. Participants choose the next month's book. See [birdbeckett.com](http://birdbeckett.com) for more details.

### Thursday, October 13

**Screen Time: Brainfuse**  
3:30-5, *Glen Park Library*

### Saturday, October 15

**Habitat Restoration Work Parties**  
9-noon,  
Registration required. (See September 17)

**Walking Tour, Bovines, Dynamite, and High-Flying Shows: The Amazing History of Glen Canyon Park**  
10-12:30, *Meet under the Glen Park cow sign at Elk Street near Chenery Street.*  
Suggested \$5 donation to support future GPNHP activities, or join the GPNHP (\$15 per year) and receive a pass to attend.

**Storytellers from City College's Theatre Arts Department**  
1-3, *Glen Park Library*

### Sunday, October 16

**LEGO Free Play**  
2-4, *Glen Park Library*

### Monday, October 17

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*  
(See September 19)

### Tuesday, October 18

**SFPD Community Meetings**  
7–8 p.m., *location varies*  
(See September 20)

### Saturday, October 22

**General Meeting: Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project, The History of Mt. Davidson, San Francisco's Tallest Peak**  
3:30-5:30, *Glen Park Library*; free  
**Grant Levin Duo**  
4-6, *Bird & Beckett*

### Monday, October 24

**Sunnyside Neighborhood Association**  
7 pm, *St. Finn Barr Community Rm*, 415 *Edna St.*  
Quarterly membership meeting

### Wednesday, October 26

**Resilient Diamond Heights**  
3:30-5. *Call 415-285-9540 for location*

### Thursday, October 27,

**Glen Park Association Quarterly Meeting**  
7 pm, *San Francisco Police Academy meeting room*, 350 *Amber Drive*  
Program: BART District 9 Board of Directors Election Candidates Forum with Gwyneth Borden, Bevan Duffy, Michael Petrelis

### Sunday, October 30

**Walker Talks!**  
2:30-4, *Bird & Beckett*  
(See September 25)

### Wednesday, November 2

**Diamond Diners lunch and social hour**  
12 Noon-1 p.m., *St. Aidan's Church*, 101 *Gold Mine Drive*  
**LEGO Free Play**  
2-4, *Glen Park Library*

### Monday, November 7

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*  
(See September 19)

### Wednesday, November 9

**Bird & Beckett Book Club**  
7-9, 2nd *Wednesday of the month, Bird & Beckett*  
(See October 12)

### Saturday, November 12

**Grant Levin Duo**  
4-6, *Bird & Beckett*

### Sunday, November 13

**Walking Tour, A Trestle Ran Through It: Early Days in Glen Park Village**  
10-12:30; *Meet at the Glen Park BART Plaza*

### Tuesday, November 15

**SFPD Community Meetings**  
7–8 p.m., *location varies*  
(See September 20)

### Saturday, November 19

**Habitat Restoration Work Parties**  
9-noon, *Registration required.*  
(See September 17)

**Walking Tour, Sunnyside History Walk: The Early Days**  
11-1; *Walk begins and ends at the Glen Park BART Station.*

Suggested \$5 donation to support future GPNHP activities, or join the GPNHP (\$15 per year) and receive a pass to attend

### Sunday, November 20

**LEGO Free Play**  
2-4, *Glen Park Library*

### Monday, November 21

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*  
(See September 19)

### Wednesday, November 23

**Resilient Diamond Heights**  
3:30-5. *Call 415-285-9540 for location.*

### Saturday, November 26

**Grant Levin Duo**  
4-6, *Bird & Beckett*

### Sunday, November 27

**Walker Talks!**  
2:30-4, *Bird & Beckett*  
(See September 25)

### Monday, December 5

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7-9, *Bird & Beckett*  
(See September 19)

### Wednesday, December 7

**Diamond Diners lunch and social hour**  
12 noon-1, *St. Aidan's Church*  
**LEGO Free Play**  
2-4, *Glen Park Library*

### Saturday, December 10

**Holiday Tales with Storytellers from City College's Theatre Arts Department**  
1-3, *Glen Park Library*

### Wednesday, December 14

**Bird & Beckett Book Club**  
7-9, 2nd *Wednesday of the month, Bird & Beckett*  
(See October 12)

### Thursday, December 15

**Holiday Craft**  
3:30-5, *Glen Park Library*