



# Glen Park News

## Micro Lot Sale Showcases Housing Pinch

**W**ith the San Francisco housing crisis in full swing, buyers continue to search for creative ways to either stay in or move to San Francisco. The recent sale of a 914-square-foot sliver of land in Glen Park at 2785 Diamond St.—currently a community garden—is a stark example of what it might take to buy into the neighborhood.

The triangle-shaped property wedged between two houses just north of Chenery Street was listed as a “vacant lot zoned RH-2” for \$199,000 and sold on Oct. 29 for \$165,000, according to Redfin, a real estate brokerage that provides online data on sale prices.

It’s rare in this red-hot housing market for a property to sell under the asking price—and without a bidding war. But then again, there have been few properties this size and shape on the market.

It should come as no surprise that every inch of vacant land zoned for development is being eyed in this environment, where the demand for housing outstrips the supply. And as unusual as this Diamond Street prop-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



## That’s a Lot of Pies!

Joe Schuver (top) and his team of bakers at Destination Baking Co.—located at the corner of Chenery and Castro streets—make pies of all sorts for the holidays. Here, they prepared a batch for the just-passed Thanksgiving rush. On the day before Thanksgiving, the bakers got started at 4 a.m. and put their last pies in the oven 14 hours later. The bakery made more than 400 pies, with pumpkin, followed by apple, topping the popularity list. Next up, Christmas pies. Check the bakery’s website ([www.destinationbakingcompany.com](http://www.destinationbakingcompany.com)) for its holiday menu. Be sure to order early.



Photos by  
Liz Mangelsdorf

### GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION

#### HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday December 13, 2 - 5p.m.  
Sunnyside Conservatory  
236 Monterey Boulevard

Everyone welcome! Refreshments and beverages and music! We will be collecting donations to the San Francisco food bank.

#### QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday January 21, 7 p.m.  
Location to be determined.  
Check website for update.  
[www.glenparkassociation.org](http://www.glenparkassociation.org)

## Holiday Pause for Intersection Work

**T**he construction project to remake the Bosworth-Diamond intersection—now more than a year old—is taking a City-required five-week break during the holiday season.

A firm finish date still has not been set.

by Elizabeth Weise

The traffic-calming efforts at the intersection included removing car lanes in both directions and pushing the sidewalks out to make the pedes-

trian crossings shorter. However, after the sidewalk work was finished, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, which designed and managed the project, realized that the roadways in the intersection had been made too narrow, and buses and large trucks could not make turns without going up on the curb or onto the traffic median between the lanes on Bosworth Street.

Work to re-do the intersection began in October 2014. However, it won’t

be completed until sometime in 2016 because long-standing City policy requires that no road work be done in retail areas during the holiday season, to minimize impacts on local businesses between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day.

Work is expected to restart in January, but the construction schedule “is still being developed,” said Kelley McCoy, a spokeswoman for the SFMTA.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

# GLEN PARK NEWS

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## ❖ GPA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN ❖

**O**n the way to BART one morning in November, I saw a cluster of folks near the entrance to the Glen Park Library. About a dozen men and women in casual, comfortable clothes and shoes, hats and daypacks were listening to someone briefing them on what looked like a serious walk.

Before I could ask, they moved down Kern Alley to Brompton Street and the path toward Lippard. If I hadn't been rushing to an appointment, I would have caught up to ask if they were using the Glen Park Greenway as a route to the canyon, perhaps up to Twin Peaks.

Even in its current state, the Greenway is a good path from BART to Glen Canyon Park. People use the improved trails in the canyon, and the new trail past the SOTA campus to Portola Drive. Hikers still have to backtrack a bit to the turn up the Twin Peaks Trail near O'Shaughnessy Boulevard, but two of us recently walked from the Rec Center to the top of Twin Peaks in about 50 minutes. We returned to Glen Park, but could have hiked down into Noe Valley, the Haight or the Inner Sunset. The "Creeks to Peaks" trails connect us easily to the rest of the city.

Back in Glen Park, after three well-attended public meetings in May, September and November, the Glen Park Greenway Concept Plan evolved

with strong neighborhood support. Bonnee Waldstein's story about the Greenway is on Page 16.

At the Nov. 19 Greenway Workshop at St. John School, I heard many comments about the plan for the improved path from Diamond Street to Elk Street:

- Keep benches short, so people can't sleep on them.

- Make sure "screen planting" is really a screen for privacy next to homes.

- Decomposed granite pathways would be quiet and permeable.

- Paint street crossings at Brompton and Lippard "bike-lane green" for continuity and safety.

- The plan has a natural esthetic, and it's not over-manicured.

- Everybody's in agreement on the pathway up to Burnside.

How many neighborhood meetings have we sat in with such positive tone? But on balance, there is a fairly heated debate about the proposed Upper Trail route for the Greenway, which would use the hillside between Burnside and Elk, behind the homes on the south side of Paradise Street, below Bosworth. In discussions of this portion of the trail, I heard:

- There are privacy and security concerns for a trail behind homes.

- New trees on Paradise wouldn't thrive.

- I would oppose the plan if the Upper Trail were part of it.

- Manage the vegetation along

Bosworth between Burnside and Elk, even if there's no trail.

- Or, keep the Upper Trail idea at least from Chilton to Burnside.

Even with the differences over the Upper Trail route, the meeting produced a civil and respectful dialogue among the speakers. Frankly, that is not always the case in neighborhood meetings in San Francisco.

From May to November, my Glen Park Association colleague, Nicholas Dewar, ran the meetings, while Roderick Wyllie and Leon Hordijk at Surfacedesign took notes and comments and returned with drawings reflecting the community's goals and concerns. All of you who came to meetings or posted online comments can take tremendous credit. As Sandra Zuniga, a San Francisco Public Works manager, said at the meeting, "I've never seen a plan come together so fast."

We are close to the next phase: Getting City agency support, obtaining detailed design and construction funds, and figuring out commitments for maintenance. There is a lot of neighborhood engagement ahead of us to make the Glen Park Greenway a reality. ❖

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

## ❖ FROM THE EDITORS ❖

**A** recent walk around Glen Park revealed something we don't usually see: homeless people sleeping on the sidewalk. One person was huddled in a Chenery Street doorway; the other lying on Thor Street in front of people's homes. The scene is common in the Tenderloin, downtown, the Mission and South of Market. Not so much here.

We've also noticed more panhandlers in downtown Glen Park.

The City's biennial homeless count, released this summer, found that there were 6,688 people in San Francisco without housing during a one-day city-wide survey in January. That number is 3.8 percent higher than the last count in 2013. That may not seem like a big jump. But what the snapshot revealed was that more people were showing up in neighborhoods where they weren't before. Glen Park fits that trend.

We've known for a long time that homeless folks have camped illegally in Glen Canyon Park. The emergence of

people sleeping in front of our homes and businesses is new—and troubling.

It's troubling because people without shelter face greater health risks. It's troubling for the neighborhood because people living on the streets often don't have access to toilets, and relieve themselves between parked cars or in other inappropriate places. And many neighborhoods with large homeless populations also experience an uptick in crime, such as car break-ins.

The situation is heartbreaking and frustrating. In this city of riches, many wonder why people are living on the streets. There is no easy answer. The City spends more than \$160 million a year on homeless services, and the problem persists.

In 2015 Mayor Ed Lee opened a pioneering program called the Navigation Center, a Mission Street shelter where people can move in with their partners, pets and friends. The facility offers on-site services with the aim of getting people into more stable housing situations as quickly as possible. However,

the demand for the Navigation Center is greater than the capacity of the 75 people who can be served at a time. City officials are hoping to open more Navigation Centers. The mayor also committed to getting 500 units of supportive permanent housing on line by the end of 2015. Voters approved a \$310 million housing bond in 2015, which should make even more units available for the homeless.

We know that the problems of homelessness are complex, often involving some combination of substance abuse, mental illness, generational poverty and more. There are no quick-fix solutions. Given that, we want to make sure that we don't just give up in despair, but instead tap into San Francisco's well of compassion and innovation.

We don't want to end the year on a downer, but with a call for action as we head into the New Year. The status quo is not good enough, and having people live on our streets and in our doorways is in the best interests of no one. ❖



# Raising a Holiday Glass in Glen Park

**'T**is almost the season to be jolly, and what better way to jollify than to lift a glass to Santa Claus or to the start of 2016?

For the grownups of Glen Park, there are plenty of places to supply the appropriate libations for any occasion, and in practically any price range.

by Gail Bensinger Canyon Market, at Diamond and Wilder streets, always boosts its offerings of champagnes and other sparkling wines in December, augmenting what is already the neighborhood's most extensive array of wine, beer and other spirits. Owner Richard Tarlov recommended a selection of "very special" pinot noirs to accompany turkey, or cabernets or good zinfandels to go with roast beef, "for people who want to splurge over the holidays."

There are plenty of other wine choices of reds, roses and whites, still and sparkling, as well as beers, hard ciders and ales—some of them brewed especially for winter drinking. Tarlov pointed out the makings for punches, including a jug of inexpensive Scotch whiskey, and cocktail components, such as grenadine. Nearby are several types of organic spirits, including vodka and rum, as well as brandies.

Another seasonal offering is a Scandinavian liqueur called glogg. "Scandinavians love glogg for the holidays," he reported.

Stock up early. Canyon Market will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, and will close early on Christmas Eve.

All three Glen Park corner markets—Buddies at Diamond and Chenery, Glen Park Deli at Diamond and Bosworth, and Chenery Market at Randall and Chenery, all sell wines, mostly at the lower end of the price spectrum, and a surprising variety of beers, including some from boutique breweries. All also have limited stocks of hard liquors.

For dining out, most of the local eateries offer beer and wine in the evenings. Manzoni, the Italian restaurant at 2788 Diamond St.,

always offers special wines, says owner Manhal Jweinat, and the holidays are no exception.

At Diamond and Chenery, Laurent Legendre of Le P'tit Laurent, says his bistro will offer a special four-course holiday meal, with a glass of champagne along with dessert. Le P'tit Laurent will be open on Christmas Eve but not Christmas Day, and will close for a week starting on New Year's Eve.

Across the street at Tataki Canyon, 678 Chenery, a range of specialty cold sakes that are always on the menu are especially appropriate for the season. There's a sparkling sake, one whose aroma has hints of cedar. Another, the favorite of employee Sarah Tesch, is Kikusui Perfect Snow, a sweet sake with white granules that turn into a bottle-shaped snow globe after you give it a good shake.

There are also warm and cold house sakes and lychee sangria, Tesch said. Tataki Canyon will be closed Christmas and New Year's days, but otherwise will

observe regular hours through the holiday season.

If you want to leave something non-alcoholic under someone's Christmas tree, or you need to stock up for holiday entertaining, check out the offerings at Perch, 654 Chenery St., where owner Zoel Fages offers plenty to choose from: corkscrews, coasters, decanters, pitchers, all sorts of glasses suitable for wine, cocktails or beer, flasks, jiggers and more. Among the books on sale are the just-published *Beer Bites*, by Christian DeBenedetti, and the intriguingly titled *Mrs. Lilien's Dessert Cocktail Swatchbook*.

"We're a boozy store," said Fages.

Perch is holding its holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 5. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., cookies and cider will be served, while champagne and cheese will be on offer between 4 p.m. and closing at 7 p.m. Mention the word "holiday" to the store staff, and get 20 percent off on purchases.

Bird & Beckett Books and Records, at 653 Chenery St., always has wine on offer at its neighborhood jazz concerts, held in the bookstore on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

For gift-giving, owner Eric Whittington stocks lots of cookbooks and books about libations. New this year is *High Spirits: The Legacy Bars of San Francisco*, by San Francisco Chronicle reporter J.K. Dineen, a fond look at a few of the city's neighborhood bars of the been-here-forever sort.

A new edition of the *Oxford Companion to Wine* is also in stock. And aging nicely, as a good wine should, is 2013's *The New California Wine: A Guide to the Producers and Wines Behind a Revolution in Taste*, by local wine writer Jon Bonné.

And finally, Whittington added, "We do have a nice selection of wine-soaked cookbooks at half off," the result of a recent Friday-night mishap.

For those who imbibe, drink up! But be sure to not drive. Happy holidays ❖.



Glen Park Station, at 2816 Diamond St., is festooned for the holidays with red poinsettia plants in the front window and on the tables inside. The neighborhood hangout serves up mixed drinks, including honey-infused hot toddies and Irish coffee, to take away the winter chill.

Photo by Rachel Gordon

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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.



## ◆ NEWS FROM CITY HALL ◆

**E**very neighborhood, including Glen Park, has problem properties that seem to languish and deteriorate for years with no improvements or enforcement by the City. Over the years, my office has been contacted regarding a number of buildings in Glen Park and the surrounding area where front stairwells don't exist, where contractors significantly violate their permits or where extreme hoarding becomes a life safety concern. Whether these buildings are eyesores on a neighborhood or health and fire hazards, we need to be more effective in dealing with them.

Part of the problem lies in our current code-enforcement process. City departments have conflicting enforcement processes and lack sufficient coordination. This lack of a cohesive code enforcement system leads to accountability gaps that prevent the City from addressing significant violations of the building, fire, health and planning codes.

I understand how frustrating it can be when nothing seems to happen with these problem properties, so I've introduced code-enforcement reform

legislation to strengthen the City's ability to crack down on code violators and improve building safety.

This legislation will do a number of things. It will unify the processes that the Building, Fire and Health departments follow in enforcing violations related to buildings, including clear deadlines for taking action by both departments and violators to ensure that code violations are corrected. We need to empower departments with better tools for enforcement, and also hold them accountable when action isn't taken. The legislation requires monthly reporting from these departments, and allows the city attorney to initiate lawsuits against serial violators when City departments are slow to act.

Another provision in the legislation came directly out of a problem in Glen Park. Following a prolonged neighborhood conflict around a residential project that was continually violating construction permits, we worked with the city attorney's office to draft a provision to allow the City to be more aggressive in confronting this kind of problem.

Under the current law, the Department of Building Inspection can typically only suspend the permit with

which the violation is most closely associated, leaving the contractor to continue work on other aspects of the project. My legislation will allow a "stop all work" order, to be in effect until all code violations have been fully investigated and resolved to the satisfaction of DBI. By freezing projects with serious, ongoing and unaddressed violations—where the contractor has effectively blown DBI off—DBI will have more leverage to enforce City codes.

Finally, the legislation creates a Code Enforcement Revolving Loan Fund, a low-interest loan program administered by the City that will help owners of rental property who lack significant

financial means to correct code violations. We want to encourage people to bring their properties into compliance, particularly around life-safety issues, and this loan fund will help. In the most recently adopted City budget, I obtained an allocation for this purpose.

Our neighborhoods shouldn't have to put up with blighted properties and insufficient enforcement. We can do better, and this legislation will help. ♦

*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).*

## City Studying Parklet Impacts on Chenery

**T**he proposal to install a parklet on Chenery Street in front of Higher Grounds coffee house has been put on hold by the City while the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency conducts a safety review of the Chenery-Diamond intersection.

Manhal Jweinat, the owner of both Higher Grounds and the Manzoni restaurant around the corner on Diamond Street, had applied to build a parklet that would replace the first parking space on the southeast corner of the intersection with a landscaped seating area, but later asked to have the application placed on hold. (Glen Park News, fall 2015)

Gina Simi, communications manager of the City's Planning Department, said the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency initially deemed the proposed parklet location feasible when the application was reviewed in the spring of 2015. At that time, the permit checker only referred to plans showing the location of nearby parking spaces and red zones on Chenery. "However," Simi said, "during site inspections in the fall, the SFMTA discovered discrepancies between their own plans and the actual locations of parking stalls and red zones on Chenery."

According to Ben Jose, a spokesman for the transportation agency, "The SFMTA is reviewing the existing conditions at this small, but busy, intersection." He said the review is due for completion this winter, but he couldn't be more specific about the timing.

"The SFTMA's first and foremost

consideration is safety. Muni operations is a key part of this specific review," Jose said.

Muni buses and large commuter shuttle buses turn at the corner, and delivery trucks regularly double-park there, creating occasional traffic challenges. Construction of the parklet also would mean one less parking space—always a contentious matter to local residents and merchants.

Jweinat said he would decide after that review is complete whether to reactivate his application. "I wanted to do something nice for the neighborhood," he said of his original plan.

### Other Business News

•Jweinat has applied for a beer and wine license for Higher Grounds. He said the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's decision will come in 2016.

•The space once occupied by Chenery Park restaurant is nearing its first anniversary of being empty. Richard Tarlov, owner of Canyon Market, said the market's proposal to take over the three-level space hasn't officially been turned down, but it hasn't been accepted, either.

•The other local business that closed before Christmas last year, the CitiBank branch across from the BART station, also remains vacant.

•Paul Park, proprietor of Buddies Market, who faced a hefty rent hike that could have sent him packing, has negotiated a new five-year lease with his landlord, so the mom-and-pop store remains in business at the northeast corner of Chenery and Diamond streets. ♦

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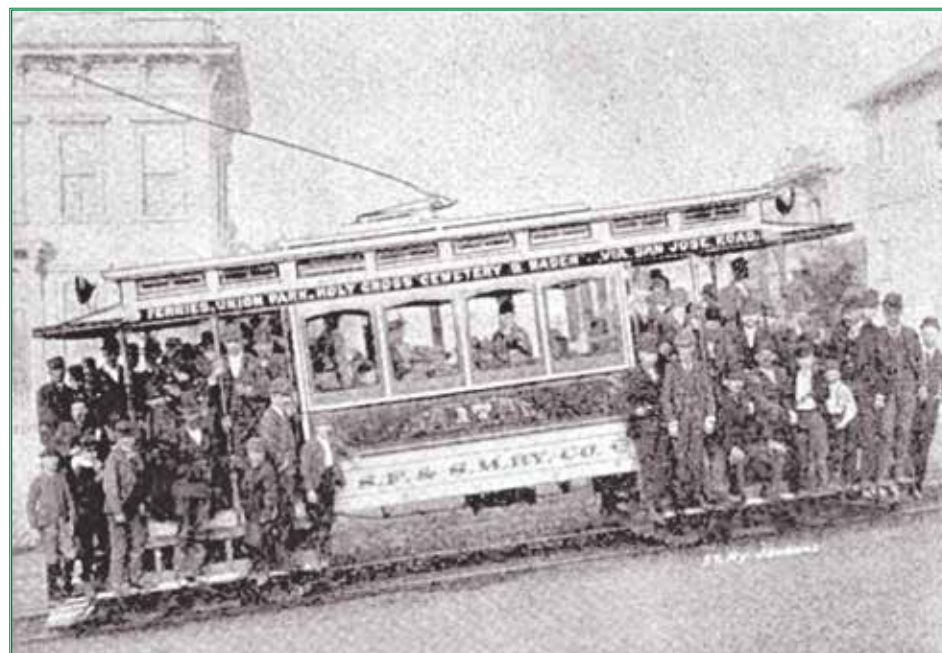
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## ❖ (HI)STORIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ❖

**M**uni rerouting; Diamond and Bosworth reconstruction; San Jose Avenue/Interstate 280 road diet. Our traffic woes may seem like side effects of Glen Park's recent growth in popularity, but they are really nothing new.

Ever hear of the Chenery Chute?  
First appearing on maps in 1864, Chenery Street became an important local transit route in 1892 when Behrend Joost's San Francisco-San Mateo Railway, the city's first electric railroad, began service. Bringing residents to his new Sunnyside District development from downtown, the railway sharply turned south on Chenery at 30th Street, ran up the incline to Randall Street, and continued over the hill before veering west to Diamond Street. Here it turned south, rumbling over the Islais Creek trestle and on to Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma.

Chenery Street Hill between Randall and 30th, originally a very steep grade, quickly became a railway trouble spot. The first accident (only six weeks into service) and nearly all subsequent incidents followed the same basic scenario: Overloaded cars returning from the cemetery; passengers with "barely a foothold," "hanging on to the ends of the car wherever they could find anything to grasp." Upon descent from Randall, the car would become "unmanage-



This grainy image from an 1893 railway journal identifies an overloaded San Francisco-San Mateo Railway car as being "on a steep grade," likely Chenery Street between Randall and 30th Street.

able," essentially popping wheelies and strewing passengers about; or, at 30th, would "round the curve with a heavy list to starboard." Sometimes, cars left the tracks altogether and crashed. While there were many injuries, in 1894 only three were life-threatening.

Railway management claimed car operators just needed more practice, or blamed Fairmount School students for using the track like a "toboggan," sliding down the rails on boards and making the rails too smooth for brakes

would eventually be reduced, but not before the "Chenery Chute" had become notorious.

Tragically, on the southern slope of Chenery Street in 1927, three young men died when their speeding car fishtailed at the Natick Street curve into the path of an oncoming 26-line rail car. By then labeled "Death Hill," Chenery Street was noted by police as "one of the worst death traps in San Francisco."

Additionally, with its dual streetcar tracks, "Chenery Street is a narrow and winding street. It forms the principal outlet cityward for residents of Glen Park, Sunnyside and Ingleside, and with the development of these districts within recent years, has acquired an importance and a volume of traffic all out of proportion to its original plan."

Sound familiar? ❖

*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 Neighborhood History Project meets every other (even) month. Join the mailing list: [GlenParkHistory@gmail.com](mailto:GlenParkHistory@gmail.com).*

ONE NEWSPAPER COMMENTED,  
'IF THE SENSE OF  
DANGER WERE ABSENT,  
THE PASSENGERS WOULD  
ENJOY THE THRILL.'

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## ❖ CHECK IT OUT AT THE LIBRARY ❖

**T**hanks for the great Celebration of the Library! And the tricycle goes to ... Chloe Macias!

On Oct. 24, The Not Its from Seattle rocked the Glen Park Library to celebrate eight crazy years in this beautiful new branch. Glen Park resident Stephen Shapiro won the Tricycle Raffle, but the prize went to his young neighbor Chloe, age 1. Watch for her around the neighborhood as she grows into her new shiny red wheels.

Eight years ago, the library occupied the space where Bird & Beckett Books and Records is now, at 653 Chenery St. The little bookshop around the

corner goes hand-in-hand with the Glen Park Library. B&B proprietor Eric Whittington honored the library by selecting eight books for those eight years, from various corners of the shop, that are among the best he's ever read.

Here's his list (an annotated version is at [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org); search under Lists for GlenPark8):

- *Winnie-the-Pooh* by A. A. Milne
- *The Stories of Breece D'J Pancake*
- *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* by Michael Ondaatje
- *The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area* by Malcolm Margolin
- *The Poetry Deal* by Diane di Prima
- *Machine Dreams* by Jayne Anne Phillips
- *The Book of Disquiet* by Fernando Pessoa
- *Gödel Escher Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid* by Douglas Hofstadter

You can check them out at the library, or you might find one so good that you'd like to keep it on your bookshelf at home forever. In that case, duck into Bird & Beckett and buy it. Say "thanks" to Eric for us while you're there.

Eric wasn't the only local merchant supporting the library. Owner Joe Schuver at Destination Baking

Company generously donated shortbread and gingersnap cookies that were scrumptious and enjoyed by all. His loving support of the library might have something to do with the fact that he's a librarian by training. Thanks, Joe!

**Holiday Tales:** City College of San Francisco Storytellers will spin holiday and ethnic tales for children of all ages on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 1:30 p.m. These talented theater arts students entertained a packed house in October and are sure to delight again. It's a chance to get into the spirit of the season without fighting the shopping crowds or opening up your pocketbook.

**LEGOs Rule!** These little yellow, red and blue bricks can be used over and over, and enjoyed forever. Young engineers, builders and artists reuse them at the library on the first Wednesday of each month (2-4 p.m.) and the third Sunday of each month (1-4 p.m.), and create away. Bring your imagination. All LEGOs are provided.

**A Long Time Ago in a Galaxy Far, Far Away:** A future Jedi Knight, about 5 years old, sat on the floor by the children's area, reading a Star Wars book and

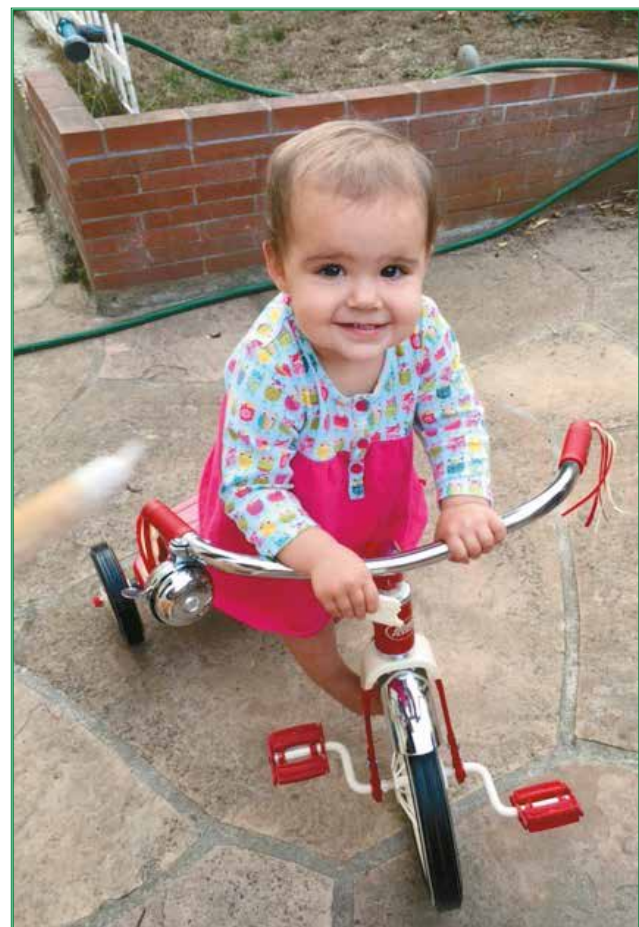
humming the movie theme from Star Wars to himself. Our young justice fighter hummed for more than five minutes, completely absorbed in that galaxy far, far away, and yet right here in a book at the library. Take a minute and hum it to yourself.

May the Force be with you in this season of light—and always! ❖

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

## GLEN PARK LIBRARY HOURS

Monday/Tuesday 10-6,  
Wednesday 12-8,  
Thursday 12-7,  
Friday/Saturday 1-6,  
Sunday 1-5



Tricycle raffle winner Chloe Macias.



*Bird & Beckett Books and Records*

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## Join the Glen Park Association To Support Our Neighborhood

Have we got a great gift idea for you: A Glen Park Association membership!

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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). ❖



# Growing Pains for Local Farmers' Market

Amid falling numbers and rising hopes, the 2015 Glen Park Village Farmers' Market closed for the season as scheduled in November with unanswered questions about the future of this neighborhood amenity.

Supporters seem to want something better, but don't agree on a path forward.

Shoppers like having a local source of organic produce and artisanal foods. But they also complain of the market's small size and limited selection. Many also shop the Noe Valley, Alemany, Ferry Building and Stonestown farmers' markets.

"I love having a farmers' market within walking distance from my house," said Mary Anders, who lives three blocks away from the market's location in the BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington streets. "I just wish there was more there. I used to go every week; now maybe I go once a month. There are other markets where I can get a lot more of my weekly shopping done."

Market organizers note that it's a tough balance. The more vendors and variety, the bigger the draw for customers. But without more customers, it's hard to get vendors to commit to the market.

Vendors, who drive to Glen Park from as far away as Fresno, echo the concern. Among them is Tony de Jesus of J&M Ibarra Farms. He makes the four-hour trip to Glen Park every Sunday, along with cousins who sell at the Stonestown and Inner Sunset farmers' markets. At the latter locations they fare much better, he says.

According to Ric Lopez of the Glen Park Merchants Association, who was instrumental in bringing the market to the neighborhood in 2011, drought-plagued harvests and changing demographics have lowered attendance. Families, he laments, are leaving Glen Park.

But Samantha Wheeler, who manages the Glen Park market for the Pacific Coast Farmers Market Association, says that family attendance is up.

The market offers musical entertainment and children's activities, and has emerged as a community gathering spot for Glen Park where patrons often run into neighbors.

Wheeler says her umbrella group, which manages 65 markets in the Bay Area, wants to make Glen Park's mar-



Shoppers look over produce at the J&M Ibarra Farms stand at the Glen Park Farmers' Market.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

ket even more family friendly in 2016, and remains "committed to meet the new needs of the neighborhood and being able to meet those needs moving forward."

This year's season, which began March 29, ended the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Both the Glen Park Merchants Association and Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association actively recruit vendors to the market. According to Lopez, hot-food stands have drawn big crowds in past years. A popular corndog vendor from the East Bay, he recalls, had enormous lines. These days, organic rotisserie chickens lure some Glen Park shoppers to Stonestown's Sunday farmers' market.

The BART parking lot may not be the ideal location for a farmers' market. Tucked away at the far end of the lot, the few stalls remaining at the end of the season looked remote.

By contrast, Noe Valley's farmers' market fronts a well-travelled commercial corridor. Hundreds stroll by en route to 24th Street cafés and stores.

Lopez favors Wilder Street as a better permanent location. Neighborhood merchants have objected to that location in the past. The street would have to be closed to traffic.

THE MORE VENDORS AND VARIETY,  
THE BIGGER THE DRAW FOR CUSTOMERS.  
BUT WITHOUT MORE CUSTOMERS,  
IT'S HARD TO GET VENDORS TO COMMIT  
TO THE MARKET.

Some vendors have come and gone from the Glen Park Farmers Market. A Santa Cruz fish vendor operated in the market, but packed up long before the end of the 2015 season. Several local shoppers expressed concerns about buying seafood from an outdoor stall. Lopez said vendors need to do a better job of explaining their operations, safety practices and licensing.

With more than 20 farmers' markets in San Francisco, six, including Glen Park's, operate on Sundays. Yet Lopez, who spearheaded the market's found-

ing a decade ago, believes in its future. It's a neighborhood project, he says, and needs local commitment.

Even at the end of the 2015 season, some vendors were selling out. On a recent Sunday, the Berner Rosen Baking Company had no more cookies or pastries by 1:30 p.m., a half-hour before the market's scheduled closing time. Nearby, the Berry Licious stand had run out of Watsonville strawberries and raspberries.

Local market manager Wheeler says it's very difficult to gauge shoppers' needs. Her organization would like to hear from shoppers. "The more input we can get from the neighborhood, the better we can adjust our plan for a stronger market in 2016," she said.

Shoppers who are interested in the future of the market are urged to send their ideas and suggestions to PCFMA's regional marketing manager, Jorge Vega, at [jorgevega@pcfma.org](mailto:jorgevega@pcfma.org).

The seasonal Glen Park Farmers' Market is scheduled to return next spring.❖



# HALLOWEEN SPIRIT TAKES OVER GLEN PARK



Photos by Liz Mangelsdorf



# Dia de los Muertos Celebrated in Glen Park

**D**ia de los Muertos, the pre-Columbian Mexican festival celebrating those who have died, came to Glen Park for seven days in the form of a dozen “ofrendas,” offerings created by relatives and friends who remember departed loved ones.

From the day after Halloween through Nov. 8, Chenery Street’s ModernPast hosted the displays in Ric Lopez’s shop.

At the closing festivities, Lopez stood by the altar he and his partner, Peter Wolff, created, explaining its significance. “Our offering is an ongoing gift to our ancestors, but also to those present,” said Lopez of mementoes that highlighted events from the lives of his mother and Wolff’s mother.

Lopez pointed to a grouping of beans and chocolate. “Our two mothers never met, but one loved beans, the other chocolate,” he explained. “Always generous, my mother claimed ‘If you have a bean, always cut it in half.’”

Mia Gonzalez, formerly of Encanta Gallery in the Mission District, curated the event with Lopez. She assembled San Franciscans of different ethnicities to come to Glen Park and exhibit their family possessions.

“To my knowledge, this is the first time such a Latino cultural event has come to Glen Park,” Lopez noted.

The Day of the Dead is traced to southern Mexico and Meso-America, long before the Spanish conquistadors arrived. Originally scheduled in summer, the indigenous peoples’ festival moved to Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 to coincide with the Christian All Souls’ Day. In addition to household ofrendas, family members make pilgrimages to loved ones’ gravesites, offering gifts, leaving possessions and recalling humorous stories.

Family heirlooms filled an ofrenda by Marian Dalere.

“My father’s name was Santiago Dalere, and he came from the Philippines to Hawaii, then to Salinas and eventually to Glen Park in 1957,” said Dalere, who owns Dalere’s Beauty Shop across the street from ModernPast.

Dalere’s ofrenda was an assortment of sentimental objects gathered over years of living in Glen Park.

“My father worked as a custodian at the Fairmont Hotel, and he loved sitting in our patio surrounded by his chickens,” said Dalere, pointing to an array of fruits her father had grown. “We had apple and pear trees, and he loved to cook using mustard, figs and beans.”

“He’d bring his veggies to my mother’s beauty shop,” she said. “He was so proud of his farming and so glad to get away from Salinas pesticides.”

Santiago Dalere lived to be 100.

“When he wasn’t gardening, my dad would go to Muni pier and fish,” Dalere continued, gesturing to a nook in her ofrenda festooned with fishing rods.

Janine Rosales, who lives in the Excelsior, assembled another ofrenda.

“Papa lived on Molimo Drive on Mount Davidson and owned a furniture store,” said Rosales. Her father, Nicaraguan immigrant Edgard Rosales, played percussion in the Fairmont Hotel’s Latin bands before his death at age 39: “He played conga drums with Cal Tjader, loved dominoes and practiced with clave sticks.”

Rosales’ ofrenda featured a photo of her father’s pet dog.

“My father named his collie Mambo, after Tjader’s Modern Mambo Quintet,” Rosales explained. “After papa left, Mambo died of a broken heart.”

Gary Fusco’s offering was to his mother, Paulina Murcurio Fusco.

“My mother was a Sicilian and loved her kitchen,” said Fusco, whose 25-year-old daughter Gabrielle helped fashion a trove of baking pans, cheese graters, rolling pin, wine bottles, cloth napkins and a cookbook. “Creating this altar is like bringing my mother back and remembering her.” ❖



Marian Dalere, pictured before her ofrenda honoring her father, Santiago Dalere, top. Below, Gary Fusco with his display memorializing his mother, Paulina Mercurio Fusco. Photos by Murray Schneider



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# The Saga of the Glen Park Groceteria

Every neighborhood once had a safe place—a corner pharmacy, a five and dime, a dry cleaner, a diner.

From the 1930s through the early 1990s, Constantine and Rose Portale's Chenery Street Groceteria served Glen Park families as such a sanctuary. The store occupied the space that now houses fitGlenfit.

by Murray Schneider  
“Connie and Rose represented a different age,” said Emily Bratt.

Emily sat on a sofa in her Arbor Street living room, reading a letter written by her late sister-in-law Anna Bratt, who lived at the top of Noe Street just where it nudges against Laidley.

Holly Bratt, Emily's daughter, sat with her. The two women, part of the extensive Bratt clan, took turns studying the 1992 letter, which had come to their attention through the offices of the Glen Park Association.

Anna Bratt, who died in 2013, had titled her missive “The Saga of the Glen Park Groceteria (1939-1992).”

She wrote:

*“Connie was our grocer, our friend and a psychiatrist for those who sat on a round stool in the grocery store and poured out their troubles. Connie assisted in mending our heads and hearts, and he was also a financier of those short of cash and in need of groceries.”*

“It's true,” said Holly. “Connie and Rose's store was open to everybody. There were two stools, Connie sat on the shorter and Rose on the taller one.”

“Every neighborhood has its eccentrics,” Holly Bratt said. “After school, I'd hang out at the Groceteria. Connie



Rose Portale at the Glen Park Groceteria around 1943.

always wore a green smock and slicked back his black hair with Brylcreem. He'd listen to anyone who came in the store.”

This was the early 1960s, a quarter century into the Groceteria's tenure.

“This guy Donald regularly showed up,” recalled Holly. “He was a little off, if you know what I mean. He'd buy beer and cigarettes, but he'd never pay. Connie put everything on the cuff, and at the end of the month Donald's mother came in and settled up.”

“Connie was always doing that,” Emily Bratt said. “He carried people during the Depression. He'd let them run tabs.”

Tiffany Farr, who with her husband Paul then owned Tiffany's Wine and Spirits (where Tataki Canyon is now),

recalled it this way: “One time a boy comes into my shop and says, ‘My parents left the neighborhood without paying Connie.’ So I told him, ‘This is your opportunity—go next door and pay up.’”

Anna Bratt's 1992 letter continued:

*“Connie, I would say, we are having a party, a wedding, an anniversary, a baptism, a graduation and all those events in a family lifetime. How about four pounds of salami, four pounds of cheese, and how about slicing up the whole ham I bought. And Connie would say, ‘Sure Ann, when do you want it?’”*

“It's true,” said Emily. “Connie would climb into his station wagon and make deliveries.” Anna Bratt's letter spelled it out even more clearly:

*“Going back 35 or 40 years ... ‘Connie,’ I would say on the telephone, ‘I'm stuck in the house with all my children today.’ On the other end of the line comes the soft, gentle voice ... ‘What do you need, Ann?’ The next thing you know, there was Connie at my door with my groceries.”*

After the school day at Glen Park Elementary was over, Holly would stop in to get one of Connie's hoagies before she trekked home up Diamond Street. “I was a latchkey kid,” she recalled, “and Connie made the best hard-roll salami sandwich. We kids called it ‘Connie's sandwich.’”

While it would never be confused with Safeway, the Groceteria was a

full-service market, selling deli meats, milk, juices, bread, canned goods and an ample supply of wine and spirits. Old-timers still remember a bourbon labeled Pride of Glen Park, which Connie shelved next to fifths of Old Crow.

Business slowed down at the end, and customers would find Connie and Rose sitting together, listening to the radio. Connie finally died of heart disease, survived by Rose and their two sons. Rose celebrated her 90th birthday at Chenery Park, continuing to live in the family apartment above the grocery.

Rose leased the space to Rick and Nada Malouf, who opened the deli called Cheese Boutique (which moved next door a few years ago). Rose would descend the back stairs, sit on her stool and watch Rick slice cheese.

“She'd tell me how much I reminded her of Connie,” said Rick. “Toward the end, I'd walk upstairs and deliver Rose groceries, just like Connie used to do with his customers. When Rose would come downstairs, she'd tip all the help, not just the girl who'd bagged her groceries.”

“She was nothing but good luck to me,” he added, smiling.

Anna Bratt's letter concluded:

*“This was the ‘Saga’ of Connie – our dear friend. We love you Connie, and as your customers, we give full support to your dear wonderful wife Rose and your sons Jack and Emil and their families. May you rest in peace, and someday we shall meet again.” ♦*



Rose Portale with her husband, Constantine, known as Connie, in their store.



Holly and Emily Bratt in their Glen Park garden. Photo by Murray Schneider.



# Urban Wildlife Encounters Becoming

Residents are on alert for brazen bandits lurking in the shadows of San Francisco's parks. They are hungry, they are clever, and sometimes they are dangerous. Some work with accomplices, and some go solo.

A few wear black masks over their eyes, while others defiantly flash their bushy tails as they run off with their prize.

As autumn fades into winter, San Francisco's wild creatures have seemingly become bolder in their quest for food and water. Coyotes and raccoons, usually relegated to the silent hills of large parks or to dark alleyways, are more visible.

It used to be uncommon to see a coyote before dusk; now they are out and about to greet dog walkers in the morning or late afternoon. Raccoons, the normally shy backyard bandits rifling through garbage cans and raiding dog and cat food dishes, have gained confidence, putting residents on guard in an effort to protect pets—and themselves.

"Coyote sightings and encounters fluctuate geographically and temporally, so it's hard to say definitively why there has been an increase in some areas and a decrease in other areas," said Camilla Fox of Project Coyote, an organization that promotes coexistence between people and wildlife. "We do know that conflicts have decreased in some areas where they were more intense this past



A coyote walks by the road in Golden Gate Park .

Photo by Calvin Cardenas/Flickr

summer, including Stern Grove."

She said the change may have resulted from the Recreation and Park Department taking proactive action to remove attractants and to educate dog walkers and other park visitors. She added that juvenile coyotes born this past spring often disperse between September and November, seeking new territories and mates. That means that coyote parents who were protecting their young in the summer months now may be less defensive toward domestic dogs.

To help facilitate peaceful coexistence between people and coyotes, Project Coyote presented a "coyote hazing" workshop in October in Stern Grove, at which the organization demonstrated techniques to avoid confrontation with a coyote.

According to an article in Bay Nature, raising one's hands and making loud noises, such as rattling a can filled with change or small pebbles, can help deter a coyote and minimize risk of a negative encounter.

In recent months, two incidents of coyotes attacking dogs in Stern Grove were reported. In the first, a bichon frise named Eddie was attacked by what his owner described as "a pack of coyotes" in late August. The dog survived with a crushed rib cage, but his owner had to raise \$15,000 to pay the veterinary bill.

The next dog attack in Stern Grove proved fatal. A month after the first coyote attack, a maltipoo (a cross between a Maltese and a poodle) named Buster reportedly was assaulted and killed by coyotes. Buster was not on a leash and was taken away by coyotes, never to be seen again.

Although there are no confirmed reports of coyote attacks in Glen Park recently, the signs warning people of their presence serve as a reminder to all walking through the canyon that the coyotes enjoy the area just as much as people and dogs do.

Jelena, who did not want her last name reported, has had two encoun-

ters with coyotes in Glen Canyon. The first, a few months ago, was a little unnerving, she said. While she was walking her 2-year-old lab-terrier mix near the playground at 7 a.m., Stitch took off after what she thought was another dog.

The dog ran up the hill, but then came back down, growling. "Maybe when she got closer she smelled it and realized it was not another dog," Jelena said.

To her dismay, the coyote then started chasing Stitch, and this is when Jelena knew it was a coyote, even though she had never seen one before. Then the challenge to get Stitch back on her leash and out of harm's way began. After the chase was over, "The coyote was just standing there staring at us. I think it was even unsure what to do next," Jelena said.

Her next encounter was near the staircase path off of Turquoise Way, and this time she had her 5-year-old daughter with her. It was noon, so Jelena was surprised to see a coyote out. This time, the coyote did not seem interested in the trio. But still, she was afraid it would come after the dog or her daughter.

Her husband, Chris, advises people to



A sign warn of coyote activity in Glen Canyon Park.

Photo by Rachel Gordon



# More Common, Sparking Debate

“avoid going into the canyon at dawn or dusk.” Jelena has further advice: “Keep your dog on a leash and your children close,” she said. “As soon as darkness sets in, they come out. I don’t know if it would ever come after a child, but you never know.”

Coyotes are a relatively new participant in San Francisco’s wildlife parade, but raccoons have been around for decades.

Raccoons, the curious yet cautious grand marshals, march into yards and alleyways every night—whether residents see them or not. Sometimes, they hear them. Sometimes, they only see the damage the visitors leave behind.

Until recently, the masked marauders were never anything to fear. In late August, however, a couple in the Richmond district was attacked by a band of raccoons on the street in front of their house. According to news reports, the couple suffered bite wounds and had to endure anti-rabies treatment.

Sunnyside resident Eileen Lowden has lived in the same house for 20 years with raccoon neighbors. She said, “I have not witnessed a raccoon attack. It seems unusual to me that a raccoon would attack. From my experience, their instinct is to flee to safety, not attack.”

While she’s not worried, she is careful. “Coyotes and raccoons are nocturnal. I let my cat go in the backyard during the day, but I keep him in at night and close off the cat door.”

According to the San Francisco Animal Care and Control agency website: “Raccoons rarely exhibit a fear of people or civilization, since they are born and raised in our neighborhoods.

They have replaced their former nesting places with attics, crawlspaces, hot tubs, decks, tool sheds and storm drains. Dog and cat water bowls, swimming pools and ponds have replaced water sources such as creeks and springs.”

In addition: “They are opportunistic feeders, dining on insects, fruits, vegetables, acorns, seeds, fish and small mammals, as well as dog and cat food and garbage that is left out overnight.”

Wildlife experts and Animal Care and Control agree on this one important note: Do not feed raccoons or other wildlife. The more they become accustomed to being served food, rather

than foraging for it, the more emboldened they become.

“The only long-term, permanent means of coping with troublesome raccoons,” the website offers, “is to exclude them from areas you do not want them. If they cannot get a meal at one place they will look elsewhere.”

Eileen Lowden is content to coexist with the raccoons. “There have always been raccoons in this area; I don’t think there are more now—maybe they are just getting more attention.” ❖

IT USED TO BE UNCOMMON

TO SEE A COYOTE BEFORE

DUSK; NOW THEY ARE OUT

AND ABOUT TO GREET

DOG WALKERS IN THE MORNING

OR LATE AFTERNOON.



A raccoon outside the Palace of Fine Arts.

Photo by Lynae Zebest/Flickr



Raccoons visit a San Francisco backyard.

Photo by Invertigo/Flickr



# Intersection Work Pauses For the Holidays

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The redo isn't as simple as moving a few curbs, said Michael Rice, president of the Glen Park Association. The new sidewalk-widening bulb-outs necessitated the relocation of utilities. "Now it all has to be dug up again," he said.

The new work includes moving poles for traffic signals, and rebuilding several storm drains.

"Crews are reconfiguring the southeast corner of the intersection, which includes relocating the sewer-water catch basin and electrical boxes for the traffic system. The catch basin needed to be moved to be aligned with a hydraulics system at the new gutter location," said McCoy.

The main construction work on the intersection had been completed when it became apparent that the overall design wasn't working.

"Everybody saw that the buses were running over the curb and the median. Within a couple of weeks it was absolutely clear that the design of the intersection was wrong," said Rice.

At the quarterly Glen Park Association meeting on Oct. 22, SFMTA's director of sustainable streets, Tom McGuire, was very open that it was an error on the part of his planners.

"He didn't pretend that it was anything but a mistake and that it shouldn't have been designed that way," said Rice.

The mea culpa came after the Glen Park Association had pointed out to SFMTA more than two years ago the possibility that the turns would be too narrow for large vehicles, but SFMTA staff responded at the time that the design was adequate.

Now, both the southeast and northeast corners of the intersection must be rebuilt.



Construction work at the corner of Diamond and Bosworth streets prior to the holiday moratorium. Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

SFMTA representatives said they are committed to finishing the work quickly, which has meant a mobilization of contractors who worked Saturdays and Sundays in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. Scott Stawicki, Glen Park Association transportation committee chair, was very diligent in eliciting work status updates from SFMTA and making sure the information was shared in the neighborhood.

McCoy wasn't able to give a price for the effort, to be borne by the SFMTA, which is funded by taxpayers, fees and fare revenue.

"Because the construction is still ongoing, we are still calculating the costs," she told the Glen Park News.

By November, the intersection became very congested at morning and evening rush hours, with cars backed up three and sometimes four blocks in all directions during the heaviest traffic times, and vehicles navigating side streets hunting for a shortcut. Tempers have been high, and honking horns and even shouts and angry words were common.

There is some hope for the future. When the corners are finished, SFMTA will set up the new signal systems, left turns, new road striping and new signal timing. This will include left-turn lanes in all four directions and left-turn phases in the lights northbound on Diamond to westbound Bosworth, and westbound Bosworth to southbound Diamond.

After that work is done, the City is pondering other changes to traffic patterns in Glen Park. They could include a signal at the intersection of Arlington, Bosworth and the on-ramp for southbound Interstate 280, and possibly a signal at Lyell and Bosworth streets. Both proposals are in the Glen Park Community Plan.

While the intersection is a mess right now, due to the design flaws, it's also true that San Francisco is getting more crowded. The U.S. Census Bureau this year said the city's estimated population rose 1.3 percent between 2013 and 2014, to 852,469. That's a historic high.

In 2000 the city has just 776,733 residents.

This partly explains the congestion, as Glen Park has become a highly desirable neighborhood with rising prices for both rentals and home sales. So to a certain extent more crowded roads are to be expected.

"That's one of the things that MTA people point out, with some justification," said Rice. "Bosworth and Diamond is an urban intersection; it's not possible to tear down houses and make it any bigger.

"In the suburbs, they can build six lanes in either direction, and it takes at least two minutes to wait to turn because every direction gets a turn. You can't do that here."

Another component of the congestion is the widely applauded demolition of the Central Freeway on- and off-ramps at Oak and Fell streets a while back.

Deprived of that freeway access, more drivers from the west side of the city now use O'Shaughnessy Boulevard and Bosworth Street to get to and from I-280.

The question for 2016 is how the widened sidewalks, new lane configurations and signals—intended to improve busy intersection for all users—will affect the overall flow once all the infrastructure work is finished. Glen Park drivers and pedestrians are eagerly awaiting the answer. ♦

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## ✿ DIGGING THE DIRT ✿

Lichens are intricate, beautiful, moving (really!) and vital for life on our planet.

Glen Park gardeners can see these fascinating life forms everywhere, once they look—on deck wood, on the branches of oaks in the canyon, on rocks and Hamilton stones.

I discovered them because I wanted to draw these odd bits of complex twisted life forms that I spotted while walking in our canyon. I loved the intricate structures and earthy colors.

In my study (while avoiding actually drawing them), I sprayed a tiny dry lichen with water. To my delight it began to move. The tissues swelled, and the tightly curled tendrils expanded like outreached hands and waved at the light.

Then odd pod-like forms on long stalks slowly opened up and moved. The colors became more vivid, the whole organism more complex. It seemed to be seeking light, sex, water—I did not know. This tiny bit of dried-up crumbly stuff was filled with life! I was hooked.

After more research, I found out that a lichen is not one thing but a composite organism living in a symbiotic relationship. A lichen is a combination of fungi and cyanobacteria and/or algae. For instance, a fungus entwines algae with its filaments and provides support and collects water. The algae photosynthesize and produce food for the algae and the fungi. A perfect partnership!

Lichens do not belong in the plant kingdom (no roots, stems or leaves). In fact, they are off on their own special branch of vital living forms that make up the web of life. By the way, mosses are quite different: they are in the plant kingdom. You can peer at them closely and see tiny roots, stems and leaves.

Why do we care about lichens? They are an intertwined part of the web of life. They are hardy, long-lived, incredibly tough and pioneer inhospitable environments. They break down as they grow, supporting mosses and other small organisms.

On rock, the fungal filaments help form soil. Birds, mites and countless insects exist in living and decay-

ing lichens. In a variety of difficult environments, they convert carbon dioxide into oxygen. In environments too harsh even for mosses, the presence of this joint organism helps plant life appear. They are a source of dyes, food and medicine. On the frozen tundra, they are food for reindeer and for the people who live on that meat.

Sadly, they now have a new role. Lichens take their nutrients from the air, and if that air is polluted, the lichens die. They are so sensitive that different lichens are used to measure levels of various pollutants all over the world. They are particularly useful for measuring radioactivity levels. They are the canaries in the mine for our world.

Many California native lichen species are endangered. Protecting lichens



Fruiting lichens.

Photo by Jim McCullough, Flickr

LICHENS ARE AN  
INTERTWINED PART OF  
THE WEB OF LIFE.

is now part of the fight to preserve the natural California landscape. Leave them be, and for samples, pick up those that fall on a forest pathway.

Note for gardeners: Lichens are not parasitic and do not harm trees or plants. They appear on old or dying plants, but removing them

will not solve that issue.

Lichens are increasingly recognized for their importance. There is now a California state lichen, the lovely Lace Lichen, *Ramalina menziesii*, graceful falls of green-gray netting that trail off our native trees. It's not Spanish moss!

If you want to learn more, start by Googling "California lichen images"

for a fast and colorful introduction to this new world. Then purchase a hand lens, an illuminated Loupe magnifier – about 20x – so you can peer into this new world.

Check out the California Lichen Society, which has great walks and meetings and will provide experts to help with the challenge of correctly identifying lichens. They also publish a small *Mini-Guide to Some Common California Lichens*, for \$16. Order from their website ([californialichens.org/for-sale/](http://californialichens.org/for-sale/)). It's just the right size to tuck in a pocket.

Here are some resources to explore: *A Field Guide to California Lichens*, Stephen Sharnhoff, 2014.

*Lichens of North America*, Irwin M. Brodo, Sylvia Duran Sharnhoff, Stephen Sharnhoff, 2002.

California Lichen Society ([californialichens.org](http://californialichens.org)).

LichenLand, Oregon State University—a good site for school projects and learning more detail ([gis.nacse.org/lichenland/](http://gis.nacse.org/lichenland/)). ❖

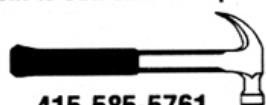
*Kay Hamilton Estey is the Glen Park Garden Club columnist. If you would like to join the club, contact her at [kay.estey@gmail.com](mailto:kay.estey@gmail.com).*

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# Greenway Proposal Starts to Take Shape

There was a palpably positive vibe at the third and final Glen Park Greenway community meeting on Nov. 19 with the emergence of a revised conceptual design.

The Greenway would be an extension of the Creeks to Peaks Trail that will connect Islais Creek in Glen Canyon Park to Twin Peaks. The Greenway was envisioned in the Glen Park Community Plan, a process begun in 2003 and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2014.

The Glen Park Greenway concept plan was funded last year by a \$40,000 grant to the Glen Park Association from the Morris and Alma Schapiro foundation; \$10,000 provided by District 8 Supervisor Scott Weiner's office; and \$5,000 donated by the Glen Park Association. (See Summer and Fall 2015 issues of the Glen Park News.)

The landscape design company Surfacedesign, Inc. was engaged to come up with a concept for an improved open space corridor along Bosworth Street, from Brompton Street to at least Burnside Avenue. There was some uncertainty about the continuation of the green space to include something along or parallel to Paradise Avenue, which would result in a continuous connection from the Greenway entrance to Glen Canyon Park.

After a brainstorming session at the first meeting, Roderick Wyllie, landscape architect with Surfacedesign, presented a preliminary concept at the second meeting. It emphasized features of the topography of the three distinct spaces. For example, two separate paths were proposed between Brompton and Lippard streets – one, a



An architectural rendering of the Greenway near St. John School.

direct walkway, and the other, a meandering path. In the space between Lippard and Chilton streets, behind St. John School, the larger area encompassed more recreational features, such as a picnic area.

It had been resolved at that second meeting that the final concept plan would not include daylighting of Islais Creek. There had been too many objections to the idea.

The final community meeting about the plan for the Glen Park Greenway was greeted with a lot of enthusiasm for the changes that had been made in the interim. The revised concept plan

was based on community input at the meetings, as well as emails and comments on the Greenway in the online Glen Park News.

Now the plan was greatly simplified, but it still honored the unique characteristics of each area, while providing greater ease of use and safety. It also retained a secluded experience of nature and encouraged natural vegetation and wildlife. And it proposed to use materials that are the most economical yet resilient, to withstand heavy public use.

The trail entrance, between Brompton and Lippard streets, called the “Sunny Meadow,” maintains a clear, accessible path of decomposed granite—a sturdy, porous, gravelly material. There would be directional and park rules signage. Plantings would be native and drought tolerant.

The middle trail, from Lippard to Chilton streets, is a tree-lined “Woodland” area, also with a decomposed granite trail. Invasive ivy, dense shrubbery and dead tree limbs and branches would be removed.

The western space, from Chilton to Burnside streets, is a “Chaparral Grassland” area, a broad open space, comprising a boardwalk and a decomposed granite pathway. Someone observed that the boardwalk was a good idea because it saves exposed roots that stress the trees. The space

also featured an overlook in the upper area near Bosworth Street.

Interpretive signage, similar to what has been added in Glen Canyon Park, would provide context. Park rules, such as dogs needing to be on leash, would be posted. There would be limited seating for resting, but no large gathering places.

Crosswalks at Brompton and Lippard streets were discussed. They would be distinctive, possibly brick or cobble, and would be designed to enhance pedestrian safety. However, this feature would require separate action by other City agencies and is not part of the formal concept plan.

Refuse and recycling containers and dog waste bags would help keep the area clean.

Safety issues are addressed in many ways: by the choice of vegetation, which would discourage encampments and nefarious activity; clear sightlines so that users could observe nearby conditions; low-output lighting, as well as some overhead lighting, to allow for evening use without disturbing neighbors in nearby homes.

The Greenway would be for pedestrian use only. The increased foot traffic in the improved space, in and of itself, would promote a safer environment.

The final leg of the concept plan gen-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



A rendering of the Greenway trail entrance near Brompton Avenue.



# Greenway Proposal Starts to Take Shape

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

erated the most controversy: Burnside to Elk streets, along Paradise Avenue. In order to maintain the continuity of the green space experience connecting with the park, an upper tributary pathway near Bosworth Street had been proposed at the second meeting.

Many felt this route was too close to the Bosworth sidewalk, would not be used and, most of all, posed privacy concerns for residents on Paradise Avenue below the path. Surfacedesign kept this concept in its final proposal, but they also added street trees along Paradise Avenue, intending this to be an alternate green connection. Some people were dubious about that idea, due to the lack of adequate sidewalk width.

It seemed possible that the upper path would remain part of the concept, but as more of a Phase Two option at some future point.

The least fun part—and the one that always comes next—is maintenance. That issue is beyond the scope of the concept plan. The Greenway consists of a patchwork of parcels owned variously by San Francisco Public Works, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Archdiocese of

San Francisco. City agencies would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the Greenway, as with similar projects around the city. In addition, community stewardship—neighborhood volunteers—would be an important component.

There was broad agreement among the people that this design, overall, did a fine, sensitive job of addressing community wishes for a Greenway in an aesthetic manner. It would be a way to enjoy nature in a dense urban environment, without any distracting grandiose features.

Based on comments, Surfacedesign will continue to tweak the plan.

The final Greenway Concept Plan will be presented at the next Glen Park Association meeting, on Jan. 21. Association members will have the opportunity to vote whether or not to approve it. City agencies are more likely to endorse projects that have strong community support. Then, moving forward, funding must be found to make the Greenway a reality.

For up-to-date information, visit [glenparkgreenway.org](http://glenparkgreenway.org).

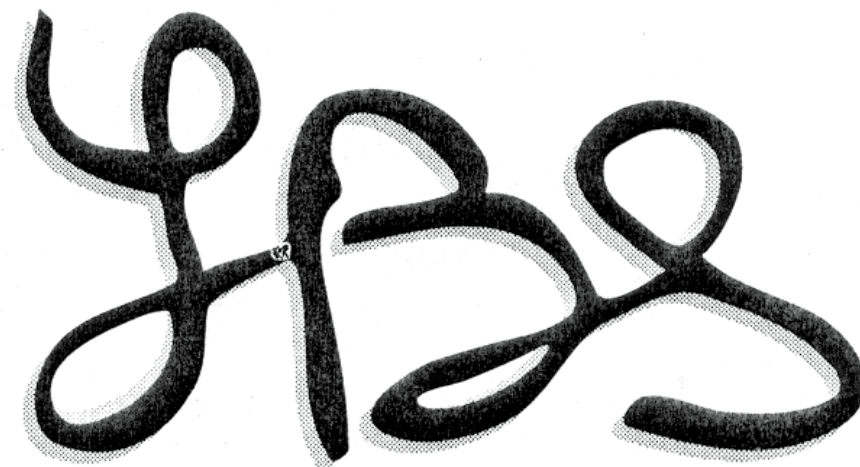
Post comments online at: <http://goo.gl/Ywcbok> ❖



A rendering of the proposed overlook on upper Bosworth near St. John School.

## Water-Saving Tips

- Eliminate runoff
- Wash hardscapes only when needed for health and safety
- Equip hoses with shut-off nozzles.
- Limit landscape watering to two days a week or less



**Lucy B. Stephenson**

Certified Public Accountant

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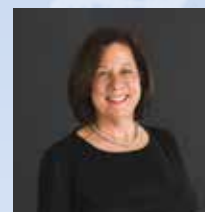
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During this time of year, we gratefully look back and reflect on family and friends. We have the good fortune of living in such a wonderful community as Glen Park.

Some community highlights I have proudly participated in:  
Glen Park Festival Sponsorship Committee  
Glen Park Festival Sponsor  
Glen Park Merchants Association

My commitment to the community continues with my continuing pledge to make a donation to a San Francisco school of your choice for every home listed and sold in our community. Each new Glen Park homeowner will also receive a membership to the Glen Park Association.

Wishing You a Healthy & Prosperous 2016



# Happy Holidays Glen Park!



We just want to wish each one of you  
the best in the New Year. We are truly blessed to  
live in Glen Park and to be able to call it HOME.  
Here's to a successful life in work,  
family, relationships and play...

**Happy Holidays to all of our friends and  
neighbors in Glen Park!**



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## ◆ NEWS FROM DIAMOND HEIGHTS ◆

### **New look for the Diamond Heights Shopping Center:**

The focal point for our neighborhood will soon have a new color design, blending lovely yellow, copper, green and aqua paint. Jeanette Oliver, the shopping center's manager, involved the public in the selection of the colors. She had various color combinations painted on the outside back wall of Walgreens and invited the public to comment on preferences. About 95 percent of participants agreed on one color scheme. Painters began working on this major project in the fall. Completion is scheduled to take a few months.

During the holidays, many people in surrounding neighborhoods will plan at least one visit to the shopping center. Diamond Heights and Glen Park residents are fortunate to have a neighborhood U.S. post office and Jensen's Mail and Copy for sending holiday packages.

Safeway and Walgreens draw customers who patronize our other businesses year-round and are busy during the holiday season. All Season Restaurant is a dim sum and Chinese food destination for people from all over San Francisco. Creighton's Bakery and Café, which originated on Chenery Street in Glen Park, serves as the neighborhood spot for chats and informal business meetings over beverages, breakfast and lunch. Choice Yakiniku provides a wide variety of Asian and American fare from breakfast through dinner, and offers take-out. Great Clips is the place for a holiday trim; their barbers include Nina, whose brand-new daughter arrived in time for the holiday season.

The owner of Diamond Heights Cleaners is happy to exchange stories about beloved animal companions and

neighborhood news. Vets at the Seven Hills Animal Hospital keep our pets vaccinated and healthy. Other neighborhood services at the shopping center include Bank of America, insurance and legal offices, and Kumon Learning Center, which provides educational support for children.

Many employees from Safeway and Walgreens, as well as the small business owners, have been members of the shopping center community for years and have created bonds with customers that extend over generations. Calvin Wiley is lead for the SF Patrol Specials, which works directly with the SFPD; he has provided security for the center for 30 years. Shopping center staff Cheryl Spikes, Jose Barrios and Terence Sandles take time from their responsibilities to lend an ear to whatever shoppers and walkers have on their minds. A big thanks is due to all who work so hard at the Diamond Heights Shopping Center to serve our neighborhood, especially during the busy holiday season.

**New Sidewalks:** At the request of the Diamond Heights Community Association and Friends of Billy Goat Hill, sidewalk construction began this fall on Beacon Street between Billy Goat Hill and Walter Haas Park, and on segments of Gold Mine Drive and Topaz Way that had no sidewalks. Supervisor Scott Wiener and Mohammed Nuru, director of Public Works, approved the sidewalk work that will enhance the appearance of our neighborhood and provide safe walkways for pedestrians. Other sidewalks are scheduled for construction in 2016 in conjunction with the repaving of Diamond Heights Boulevard.◆

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



The new sidewalk along Diamond Heights Boulevard.

Photo by Betsy Eddy



# Not a Lot of Lot for a Future Glen Park House

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

erty may be, it's not unprecedented: A home up the street on the corner of Diamond and Surrey sits on a triangular 1,346-square-foot parcel of land.

Another example of the push for housing: Supervisor Scott Wiener, who represents Glen Park, authored legislation, approved recently by the Board of Supervisors, that allows the creation of new in-law units within a building's existing footprint to increase housing availability in Glen Park and other District 8 neighborhoods.

Across San Francisco, housing development is happening on vacant hillsides and in former industrial areas.

Fred Sauerwein of ML Sauerwein Realty in San Jacinto (Riverside County) sold the odd-shaped property at 2785 Diamond St. for one of his regular clients in Southern California. "I've never had that many calls about a property," said Sauerwein. "I received about 40 calls, and I felt there was serious interest from about 5 to 10 buyers. But in the end, when it came time to make an offer there was only one serious offer. I think the others were intimidated by the variance process with the building department."

Sauerwein said the San Francisco Department of Building Inspection told him that construction was absolutely possible, but a variance would be required. "I guess the buyer was confident he could get a variance," Sauerwein said.

The new owner, a San Francisco-based architect, reportedly plans to build for himself a single-family home on the site, but is quiet about the details as he investigates the many permit issues surrounding construction.

The San Francisco Property Information Map reveals what appears to be a public easement on the property. There is speculation that the plan is to build three-stories high with an overhang.

Next-door neighbor Bill Persh has been providing water to the garden, which has been maintained by the Glen Park Garden Club for more than 20 years. Originally, the site was an overgrown, unused lot until three neighbors created the garden as a community asset. Twelve years ago, it was redesigned by current club president and Glen Park News columnist Kay Hamilton Estey. The garden has deteriorated a bit with the drought, but



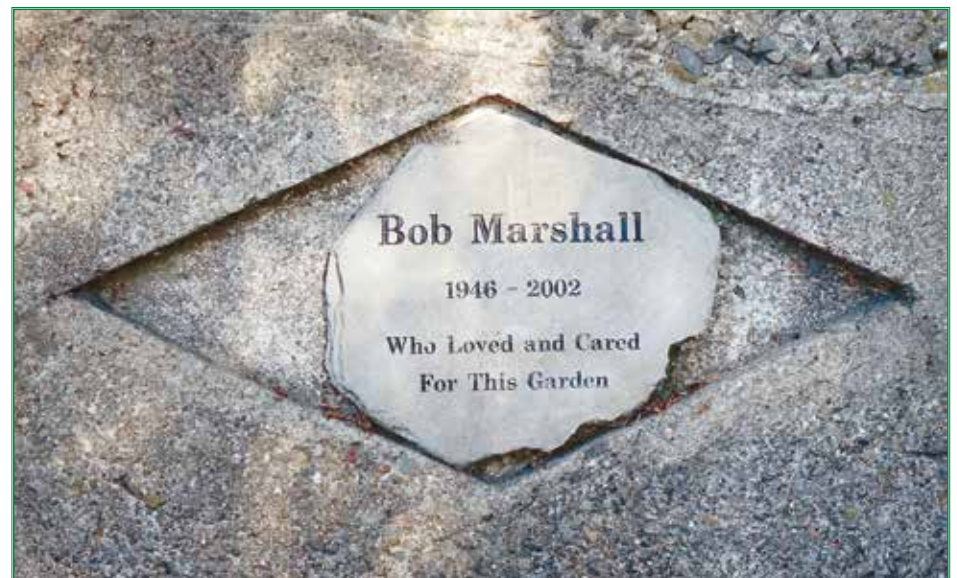
volunteers still tend to the surviving plants regularly.

Those gardeners have grown attached to the site over the years, and you'll find a memorial to one of the garden's founders, Bob Marshall, who lived up the block, on the wall lining the staircase at the edge the garden.

Neighborhood workers often enjoy lunch on the garden bench, and passersby long have used the site for a rest or to enjoy a quiet moment. "We've been really happy to see people use it, and we've had an extremely positive reaction from neighbors over the years. "It's a little spot of green on Diamond," said Estey.

"There's a lot of history there so it's a little sad," Estey continued, contemplating loss of the green space. "A lot of love and care and time has been put into the garden. But I feel the loss of the garden is inevitable with property values going the way they are. The club will do something for the garden as long as we can. Then we'll find another project."

The anonymous owner has said he plans to hold a meeting at the Glen Park Library in mid-December to present his plans. The neighborhood and indeed much of the city is eager to see what he comes up with. "I know I wouldn't buy the land," says Persh. "But it's doable. It's going to be a strange place." ❖



The community garden currently located at 2785 Diamond St, is maintained by the Glen Park Garden Club, top, and a plaque dedicated to Bob Marshall, who was one of the volunteer gardeners. Photos by Liz Mangelsdorf



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## ❖ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS ❖

**Glen Park Elementary School**

It finally feels like winter in Glen Park, as the shadows lengthen over the canyon in late afternoon and we all reach into the back of our closets for underutilized rain gear. Students at Glen Park School are hunkering down, having gotten comfortable with their new classrooms and teachers, developed new routines and settled down to the real business of learning.

We've had a busy start to the academic year. Glen Park School families gathered at our annual fall carnival in September to play games, paint faces, stuff ourselves silly and raise money to support important academic and enrichment programs at Glen Park. Thank to you to all our volunteers, and to members of the community who joined us. We hope you had a great time!

October saw us celebrating Halloween with a costume parade and a family dance, and gathering for a community Dia de los Muertos art project.

November brought our fall book fair, an annual highlight for students, who were eager to bring their parents to our school library to share their excitement for reading.

Our students have been focusing on the narrative spiral, and we're very proud of the results of their hard work. The kids met some very high standards, and we are highlighting their work on the schoolwide bulletin board. Some of our teachers took an extra step to celebrate this writing by hosting family events in the classroom, where the students were able to read their stories to the grownups in their lives. Write on, kids!

Did you know the Brompton Avenue schoolyard is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays? Come on over and say hi to our chickens, swing on our monkey bars or teach your kid to ride a bike on a flat, expansive yard.

Glen Park School is one of 28 local public schools participating in the Shared Schoolyard Project, a partnership between the City, the school dis-

trict and local communities. On Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., we'll be holding a kickoff event marking the schoolyard's grand opening. Everyone is invited to come enjoy snacks and activities for the whole family.

A note for prospective parents: Our school tours take place Tuesdays at 9 a.m. The last tour of 2015 will be on Dec. 15; tours will start up again Jan. 5. For more details, visit [www.glenparkschool.org](http://www.glenparkschool.org). We look forward to welcoming you and showing you around.

Happy holidays, everyone! ❖

*Amy St. Clair DiLaura 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**

We are three months into the 2015-16 school year, and time is zipping by! Our amazing little school is looking its best this school year. Buildings are all new, fresh paint everywhere, no more bungalows and a lot of room on the yard for our kids to run and play.

The final bit of beautification for our school is also underway. We are far into the planning phase of our S.F. Unified School District Greening Bond, which provided \$100,000 to "green" our school year. The money will be used to construct an Education Garden.

This area is going to be a pretty wonderful addition to the students' learning areas. It will consist of raised planting beds, a teaching area, a dry riverbed, storage and much more. Construction

on this area will happen over the summer, and it should be ready for use by the start of next school year.

Sunnysiders have been busy since the start of the year meeting new friends and getting to know their classmates better. They have been working hard in their classrooms to be the best they can be.

Outside the classroom they have been busy, too. One event that has taken place every year is the Run to the Sunnyside—always a fun event to see. More than 130 students with their families came to raise money for Sunnyside. I love watching the excitement on the kids' faces as they see additional tally marks being added to their arms, and their pride as they get the official medal around their necks.

Our fun is not limited to the weekends. On Oct. 30, we had our annual Costume Carnival. This is one of the kids' favorite days of the year. They love playing the carnival games, visiting the haunted house and participating in the costume parade.

It is not only our school community members who are helping make our school wonderful, but also our neighborhood community. We received two amazing grants from the Glen Park Festival this fall. One was a \$3,000 grant to help stock our new library. Our librarian was over the moon excited to be able to buy books to stock the empty shelves. She was also able to buy some storage units and media equipment.

We also received a \$1,000 grant from the Glen Park Festival to help pay for the Ray, our student literary magazine. This project, which Sunnyside does every year, features writing from every student in the school. The kids have such pride in seeing their work being published!

I want to finish by saying how happy we are to be a part of the Sunnyside community. I love the sense of community we have here, and I think it is only getting better. If you want to come see our school in action, we have tours every Thursday from October through January. To sign up for a tour, please go to our website at [www.sunnysidek5.org](http://www.sunnysidek5.org) and click on Tours. ❖

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

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# Surrey Street Kids Help Make Annual Summer Block Party a Success

**T**he Surrey Street block party means a lot to me. It is one of my favorite days of the year. Every year I change by Pauline Lüdorf and it changes with me. It's a great event to meet and celebrate with all our neighbors, new and old.

One thing I look forward to is the jumpy castle because every year it gets bigger and bigger. The weather is different each year, but I prefer the block party on warm days because then when we do the water balloon toss I don't get cold from water splashing on me.

My friend and neighbor, Margo, and I like to plan out what we are going to do for the block party. In the past, we have set up fun things like a snow-cone machine and a face-painting station.

Now that I'm older I take more of a lead in the kids'

activities, like picking out the jumpy castle, watching over the younger kids and operating the popcorn machine.

I also really like the baking contest because it means that I get to try all the baked goods. This year, I was even picked as a judge, which was so fun.

I am thankful for all the neighbors getting together. They spend a lot of time, money and effort to make this a special day.

I love the block party and cannot wait for next year. ❖

*Pauline Lüdorf has lived on the first block of Surrey Street for 10 years. She is 12 years old and is in the 6th grade at Gateway Middle School. The annual Surrey Street block party, held this year on Sept. 26, is produced independently by the residents, who also maintain their own communications network.*



The story's author, Pauline Lüdorf, enjoys the Surrey Street block party.  
Photo by Holger Leudorf.

## MARC DICKOW

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“Marc made several recommendations to improve the marketability of our property on Bosworth, coordinating with contractors and stagers to assure everything got done on time. The result was multiple offers and a sales price at a premium over asking. We never felt out of the loop. I recommend Marc to anyone interested in selling or buying a home in San Francisco.” —G.D., Seller

### “Marc is extremely professional...”

“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 ❖

When was the last time the neighbors on your block got together and hung out? How about meeting your new neighbors? Do you have a plan for your block in the case of an emergency? San Francisco's Neighborhood Empowerment Network has a program that can help you organize a Neighborfest for your block.

But first, the market update: We continued to see little inventory available in Glen Park. There were 16 sales between Aug. 13 and Nov. 3, including 11 single-family homes, three condos and two multi-unit buildings. That's down about 20 percent from the previous quarter. The average sale price for single family homes was \$1,460,545. That is an average of \$950 per square foot, which is consistent with the rest of 2015. By comparison, the average price per square foot for the entire city during the same period was \$864. The average sales price was about 18 percent over the list price. During this period, the median list price in Glen Park was \$1,295,000, with the median sale price \$1.5 million, which was pretty much unchanged from the last two quarters. The average days on market was a bit longer than it was last quarter—22 days.

The market has definitely cooled off just a bit. Part of it is cyclical, but there's something more to it. We have seen a lot of price reductions over the past few weeks, mostly in the over-\$2 million price range. I attribute some of that to the fact that certain sellers are starting with list prices that are just too high. Buyers who feel they have to offer over asking will shy away if the list price starts too high. If you are thinking of selling your home, an experienced real estate agent will have a pulse on the market and can help you decide the right list price. The last quarter tends to see a slowdown as we approach the holidays, so I don't foresee any surprises over the next couple of months. I'll do a full-year wrap up in the next issue.

Now, about that Neighborfest: The Neighborhood Empowerment Network has a program aimed at connecting neighbors to help build safer, more organized communities. Several organizations have partnered to build a Neighborhood Block Party Program. I had the good fortune to be part of one on my street in Glen Park, and it was really fun—and also educational.

Single-Family Homes					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
100 Roanoke St.	8/12/15	35	\$1,650,000	\$2,000,000	121.21%
325 Arlington St.	8/24/15	10	\$ 849,000	\$1,150,000	135.45%
2775 Diamond St.	8/25/15	50	\$1,001,000	\$1,001,000	100.00%
90 Sussex St.	8/28/15	13	\$1,295,000	\$1,500,000	115.83%
173 Chilton Ave.	9/2/15	26	\$1,095,000	\$1,450,000	132.42%
394 Laidley St.	9/2/15	4	\$ 949,000	\$1,450,000	152.79%
129 Acadia St.	9/4/15	14	\$ 699,000	\$ 830,000	118.74%
44 Vista Verde Ct.	10/1/15	50	\$1,795,000	\$1,690,000	94.15%
58 Martha Ave.	10/1/15	13	\$1,695,000	\$1,750,000	103.24%
1760 Dolores St.	10/8/15	8	\$1,295,000	\$1,565,000	120.85%
201 Mateo St.	10/23/15	15	\$1,495,000	\$1,680,000	112.37%
Condominiums/Multi-Unit Buildings					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
37 Miguel St. #6	9/1/15	41	\$1,850,000	\$1,800,000	97.30%
37 Miguel St. #2	9/17/15	13	\$ 899,000	\$1,200,000	133.48%
1863 Church St.	10/23/15	26	\$1,369,000	\$1,468,000	107.23%
39-41 Chenery St. - 2-unit building	8/28/15	0	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	100.00%
154 Laidley St. - 5-unit building	10/23/15	42	\$1,750,000	\$1,823,000	104.17%
DOM - Days on market                      SP/LP - % over list price					

We spent a few hours catching up with each other, enjoying food and beverages, and there were activities for the kids. A representative from NEN gave a presentation on preparing for emergencies, such as earthquakes, and how we can come together as a block to better help each other if an emergency occurs.

NEN's goal is to increase the number of block parties in our communities and to provide block party hosts with an easy-to-follow process. This year's pilot launch of the program proved to be very successful, and the hope is to expand the program.

I asked Daniel Homsey, project manager for the initiative, to list the benefits of this program. This is what he answered:

"When choosing a place to live a key asset/benefit becomes the people in the community. These neighbors become an important element of a resident's sense of belonging, and block parties are a great way to strengthen existing relationships and build new ones. While the initial outcomes of getting to know people are often social and generate a sense of community, often

these relationships can produce unforeseen benefits—from borrowing a hedge trimmer to swapping recipes for the world's best cioppino.

"On a very rare occasion, these relationships can provide essential help during times of stress, from the mid-

night knock on the door by a neighbor who needs someone to watch their kids while they take their spouse to the emergency room, to the phone call

to 911 because the woman who talks her dog for a walk every day at 10 a.m. hasn't been seen for a few days and her porch light has been on continually for the last 48 hours.

"Should a massive event come along which puts the whole block on its heels, such as a large earthquake that turns off the power and water for a few days, the exercise of organizing and putting on an annual block party all of a sudden becomes an invaluable training exercise for feeding and caring for the folks in your immediate area."

I couldn't agree more, and would add that having a strong community also helps to increase the desirability of your neighborhood, which in turn helps increase the home values.

Many people seek out neighborhoods that have strong communities. People want to be able to talk to their neighbors about shared fences, traffic calming, borrowing a ladder or a cup of sugar, and it's a lot easier to ask a favor or talk about issues when you have shared friendly experiences.

These communities don't happen on their own. It needs one or more people to take the initiative and get everyone together.

On my block, we are fortunate to have a neighbor who helps keep us involved in what's going on. We have been having block meetings over the years, but when Bill heard about the NEN program, he got us all together and everyone took on a role in making the block party happen. I rolled out the barbecue and cooked. Others provided beverages and desserts, or organized face painting and other activities for the kids.

The 35 Muni comes down our street so we couldn't block it off, but we managed by opening up our garages and using the sidewalk for the event. Daniel Homsey, the project manager, gave a great presentation. We met our newest neighbors, got our contact lists updated and caught up with each other's news. It was a great success, and I am already looking forward to doing it again next year.

It's not too early to be thinking about organizing a block party for 2016. It does take a bit of planning. The folks at NEN can help you with permits, advice and support. Homsey also wanted to express his deep appreciation to the San Francisco Association of Realtors, and in particular, Mary Jung, for funding this year's pilot program. For details on the program you can go to their website, [empowersf.org/neighborfest](http://empowersf.org/neighborfest).

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy your time with friends and family!

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 Street #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).





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## ♦ COMMUNITY CALENDAR WINTER 2015 ♦

**Every Monday**

**Family Storytime & Playtime**  
4–5:30, *Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond St.*

**Every Tuesday**

**Glen Park School Parent Tours**  
*Every Tuesday beginning Jan. 5, 9 a.m.*  
For details, visit [www.glenparkschool.org](http://www.glenparkschool.org).  
**S.F. Ecology Center Farm Stand**  
2:30–5:30, *at the high school, O'Shaughnessy Boulevard below Portola Drive*  
Purchase local produce and honey.  
**Family Baby Rhyme & Playtime**  
10:30–11:30 a.m., *Glen Park Library*  
For ages newborn to 15 months.

**Every Wednesday**

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park Work Parties**  
9–noon. *Meet behind the Rec Center.*  
Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department's Natural Areas Program staff. For information, contact David Burnet at 871-0203 or email [david.burnet@sfgov.org](mailto:david.burnet@sfgov.org).

**Every Thursday**

**Sunnyside School Tours**  
Every Thursday, except Christmas Day, through January 2016. For information and to sign up for a tour, visit the school's website at [www.sunnysidek5.org](http://www.sunnysidek5.org) and click on tours.

**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 285-9540.  
**Jazz in the Bookshop**  
5:30–8, *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*  
A neighborhood party every week, with live jazz.

**Every Saturday**

**Jazz Club**  
7:30–10, *Bird & Beckett*  
Live evening performances

**Every Sunday**

**Which Way West?**  
4:30–6:30, *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*  
Concert series features Americana roots bands, jazz groups, world music performers, classical musicians.

**Thursday, December 10**

**Bird & Beckett Book Club**  
7 pm, *Bird and Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*  
A book is discussed each second Thursday; participants choose the next month's book.

**Friday, December 11**

**Jewelry Making w/ Chelsee Robinson**  
3:30–5, *Glen Park Library*  
Work with real stones, crystals, beads and more to create a beautiful necklace, bracelet or earrings! Learn introductory jewelry making skills or build on existing skills. All materials provided. Space is limited. To reserve a spot, please contact Marla at [marla.bergman@sfpl.org](mailto:marla.bergman@sfpl.org) or call 415-355-2858.

**Saturday, December 12**

**Diamond Heights Holiday Party**  
3 – 6, *St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive*  
Great food, holiday crafts, Santa, free raffle and caroling. The public is invited.

**Shared Schoolyard Project**  
11–1, *Glen Park School, Brompton Street Yard*  
A Kickoff event to mark the Brompton Avenue schoolyard's grand opening. The Shared Schoolyard Project is a partnership between the City, the school district and the local community. Everyone is invited; snacks and activities for the whole family.

**Neighborhoods History Project**  
3:30– 5:30, *Glen Park Library Community Room.*  
Take a Walk on the Sunnyside: "Wild Stories from the Early Years." Presented by Sunnyside Historian Amy O'Hair. Plus "A Very Brief History of Rock Climbing in Glen Canyon Park," presented by Evelyn Rose. Minimum suggested donation \$5. Reserve at [GenParkHistory@gmail.com](mailto:GenParkHistory@gmail.com), or 415-584-1498.

**Grant Levin Duo**  
4 – 6, *Bird and Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*  
Don't miss Grant's twice-monthly duo sessions at Bird & Beckett. Every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 4 to 6 pm. One day, they'll go down in the annals

# New K-2 School in Diamond Heights

On the first Wednesday in November, regular guests who enjoy the monthly lunch provided for seniors by volunteers at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church were bemused to find part of the social room occupied by tiny tables and chairs. But there was no mystery.

This fall, St. Aidan's welcomed Golden Bridges School to share its facility. Offering kindergarten through second grade, the school is renting space from the church for the next two years. Information about the school is on the school's website at [goldenbridgesschool.org](http://goldenbridgesschool.org).

For information about many other community activities at St. Aidan's, visit the church's website, [staidansf.org](http://staidansf.org). ♦

**Sunday, December 13**

**Surf-a-billy Swing Time Dance Party!**  
12 – 1:30, *Bird and Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*  
Lavay Smith and her trio, featuring Jules Broussard on sax, Danny Armstrong on trombone and Chris Seibert close out our Surf-a-billy Swing Time Dance Party.

**Buena Vista Jazz Band Xmas Show!**  
4:30–6:30, *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*  
**The Seducers**  
7:30–9:30, *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*  
Event details: Classic country quartet featuring Joe Goldmark on pedal steel guitar, Mitch Polzak lead guitar & vocals, Eddie Kendrick, bass guitar & vocals, Kenny Owen, drums.

**Glen Park Association Holiday Celebration**  
2–5 pm, *Sunnyside Conservatory*  
Everyone welcome! Refreshments and beverages and music! We will be collecting donations to the San Francisco food bank.

**Tuesday, December 15**

**SFPD Community Forums**  
7–8 pm, *Ingleside Police Station, John V. Young Way off San Jose Avenue*

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, call the station at 415-404-4000, or visit the website [InglesidePoliceStation.com](http://InglesidePoliceStation.com).

**Thursday, December 17**

**Author Event - "Earth Still" by Annette Leddy**  
7–8:30, *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St.*  
Annette Leddy's vocations as fiction writer and curator converge in her novel "*Earth Still*."

**Friday, December 18**

**Game On!**  
4–5:30, *Glen Park Library*  
Come play PS3 or Xbox 360 games on our big screen! We have a selection of games, but you can bring your own T or E rated games to share. Challenge your friends to determine who is the ultimate gamer! Ages 8-18 welcome. For more info, contact Marla at [marla.bergman@sfpl.org](mailto:marla.bergman@sfpl.org) or 415-355-2858.

**Saturday, December 19**

**Friends of Glen Canyon, Plant Restoration**  
9–noon. *Meet behind the Rec Center*  
The Friends are volunteers who help maintain and improve our neighborhood park. Tools, gloves and instruction are provided for work parties every 3rd Saturday. To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park, contact Jean Conner at 415-584-8576. For information, visit <http://bit.ly/glencanyonpark>.  
**Jazz Club @ Bird & Beckett**  
7:30–10 pm  
Erik Jakabson Quintet, with Kasey Knudsen, Keith Saunders, John Wiitala, Hamir Atwal.



Elise Beneke Tietz with cow in Glen Canyon, circa 1909. (See Saturday Jan. 2)  
Photo courtesy San Francisco Public Library.

**Sunday, December 20**

**LEGO Free Play**  
1–4pm, *Glen Park Library*  
Get creative building with LEGO. We provide all the pieces you'll need to create vehicles, robots, castles, and more.

**Monday, December 21**

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7–9 p.m., *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery.*  
Poets read, followed by open mic.

**Wednesday, December 23**

**Resilient Diamond Heights**  
3:30–5, *St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr.*  
This neighborhood emergency/disaster planning work group meets monthly.

**Saturday, January 2**

**Neighborhoods History Project**  
10–1, *Glen Canyon Stroll.*  
Meet at the Glen Park Cow Sign at the Elk Street entrance.

Cows ruminate; chemists concoct; elk range; aeronauts parachute; activists protect. All this and more comprise the amazing history of Glen Canyon Park! Historian Evelyn Rose leads an easy-to-moderate, 1.2-mile stroll through Glen Canyon. All ages (and well-behaved pets on leashes welcome.) Group limited to 15 people. Reserve by email: [GlenParkHistory@gmail.com](mailto:GlenParkHistory@gmail.com), or 415-584-1498. Suggested Minimum Donation \$5.

**Wednesday, January 6**

**Diamond Diners lunch & social hour**  
*Noon–1, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church*  
The 1st Wednesday of every month, volunteers prepare and serve a delicious, free lunch to an interesting, diverse group of seniors over age 55 who live in the 94131 zip code. Reservations are not required.

**Tuesday, January 15**

**SFPD Community Forums**  
7–8 pm, *Call 415-404-4000 for location.*  
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. For information, call the station at 404-4000, or visit the website [InglesidePoliceStation.com](http://InglesidePoliceStation.com).

**Monday, January 18**

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7–9 p.m., *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery*  
Poets read, followed by open mic.

**Thursday, January 21**

**Glen Park Association quarterly meeting:**  
7–9 pm *Location to be determined.*  
Check website for update.  
[www.glenparkassociation.org](http://www.glenparkassociation.org)

**Agenda:**  
Updates from Supervisor Scott Wiener  
GPA annual Officer Elections.  
Approval of Glen Park Greenway concept plan.

**Wednesday, January 27**

**Resilient Diamond Heights**  
3:30–5, *St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr.*  
(See December 23)

**Wednesday, February 3**

**Diamond Diners lunch & social hour**  
*Noon–1, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church*  
The 1st Wednesday of every month, volunteers prepare and serve a delicious, free lunch to an interesting, diverse group of seniors over age 55 who live in the 94131 zip code. Reservations are not required.

**Saturday, February 6**

**Neighborhoods History Project**  
10–1, *Glen Canyon Stroll. Meet at the Glen Park Cow Sign on Elk Street.*  
A history walk with Evelyn Rose. (See January 2). Suggested minimum donation \$5.

**Monday, February 15**

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
7–9 p.m., *Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery*  
Poets read, followed by open mic.