Owls Briefly Return to Glen Canyon Park

Glen Canyon, with its hollowed valley, is like a bowl that is near acoustic perfection.

The 70-acre park is a scooped-out natural amphitheater, home to all manner of flying creatures. Song sparrows chatter and dart among willow limbs, harmonizing as they camouflage themselves among lichen-anointed limbs. Red-tailed hawks scout for a midday meal of mice. Creekside, nuthatches rat-a-tat on trunks of riparian wood, echoing along Alms Road. Hunkered atop willow boughs, crows caw, black and shiny.

And for a short while this spring, a family of great horned owls made another of their awaited encores.

Adult great horned owls’ calls are deep, a stuttering series of four or five hoots, while their chicks unleash piercing screams as they await nightly meals of rodents.

On April 3, rain took a time out. Two birders walked along the creek by Murray Schneider

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School Mural Honors Dolores Huerta

Gently removing the blue tape, she stopped for a moment to admire the many colors swirling above her on the new mural representing labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, only minutes before the official dedication ceremony.

Flavia Elisa Mora, assistant muralist for the art project at newly renamed Dolores Huerta Elementary School, worked methodically to ensure that the mural on a wall facing Chenery Street looked its best for the big moment.

Mora and others with Precita Eyes Muralists began the process of creating the mural in February with workshops to discuss ideas. These workshops included members of the school’s 5th-grade class. After four workshops, the artists and children worked together to “create a cohesive design based on the children’s drawings,” she explained. “We had a lot of volunteer help, which was amazing and helped speed up the process.”

Lead muralist Carla Wojczuk said, “We all worked together to create a cohesive design.”

Bikeshare Backers Eye Glen Park For Expansion

Another bikeshare station has been proposed for Glen Park, on Arlington Street, while neighbors continue to debate the utility of the recently installed station on Randall Street.

Both the Randall and the proposed Arlington street locations are nodes to connect riders to Glen Park BART, where a station with 38 docks opened April 1, said Justin Hu-Nguyen, community affairs coordinator for Lyft, the ride-share giant that recently bought the city-partnered bikeshare program now known as Bay Wheels.

“We would love to serve the gap in Glen Park,” he said.

A previous Arlington site was nixed when the single adjacent property owner protested. This time Lyft will propose a 23-dock station about 70 feet long in front of the Arlington Community Garden, Hu-Nguyen said. Hu-Nguyen said he already has consulted with the community garden manager and the Recreation and Park Department.

“They seem more or less neutral about the location,” he said. Next, the company will deliver mailers to houses closest to the proposed bike station, located across the street from them. Bikeshare stations are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Part of the Dolores Huerta mural. Photo by Susan Sutton

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Fenced off and closed to the public earlier this year, the re-graded Kern Street parking lot behind Pebbles Café on Diamond Street includes about 1,700-square feet of City land, giving the family that controls the lot 27 percent more space to charge tenants for parking.

That changed recently in response to three months of inquiries by Glen Park Association president Scott Stawicki about public land being used for private profit and virtually no community gain.

The City land ended up in private hands when San Francisco Public Works issued a Director's Order temporarily granting its entire 4,000-square-foot portion of the block to the Hayes family trust, which owns the 6,300-square-foot swath of the block adjacent to Kern.

But that was back in August 2018, when the family was working with the Planning Department and then-District 8 Supervisor Jeff Sheehy to turn the blighted 50-year-old de facto parking lot into a clean, well-lit paid parking lot the neighborhood could use for the next six years. (The long-term plan was to develop the lot for housing.) After the city's Planning Department refused to budge on landscaping requirements, the Hayes family fenced off the lot—including the 40 percent the City had loaned them—and restricted it to their tenants, and are charging them a fee to use it. La Corneta, one of those tenants, is letting its customers use the lot. The Hayes family did not inform Public Works that the lot would no longer be open to the public.

On May 28, Public Works decided to rescind the order, according to an email sent to Stawicki by the department's deputy director, John Thomas.

"I have been in contact with Patty Hayes, a representative of the (Hayes Family) Trust, and informed her that the Director's Order was to be rescinded, which will require that the fence be relocated to the property line," Thomas wrote. He added that he is also looking into who is responsible for repairing Kern Street's dilapidated sidewalks—the City or the Hayes family.

Since the Kern Street parking lot was closed to the general public, the Glen Park Association has received numerous complaints from Glen Park merchants, who say their businesses were negatively affected by the lot closure, and from neighbors who say the lot closure has reduced access to shops and restaurants. Coincidentally, the May 28 San Francisco Chronicle has a story about privatization of public land. On Bernal Heights, neighbors who’ve fenced in small strips of public land for decades are fighting the Recreation and Park Department's demand that the land be made accessible to the public.

But rather than making money, the Bernal Heights residents erected fences to keep hikers on Bernal Hill from dumping trash—and the occasional dead body—in their yards.

Changes tend to happen slowly in Glen Park's small but neighborly business district. Turnover is rare, and changes of ownership tend to bring new faces to existing genres—think of the newest incarnations of the sushi restaurant, the frozen yogurt restaurant, the Thai restaurant and the sandwich shop where the most startling change was a coat of purple exterior paint. So news that one of our most popular proprietors, Laurent Legendre of Le P’tit Laurent, wants to sell is, well, unusual.

In the decade-plus that he's operated his taste-of-Paris bistro on the corner of Chenery and Diamond streets, it has become popular with diners close to home and from all over the Bay Area. Legendre's sale is a complicated package deal: In addition to the thriving business itself, he owns the entire building, with its upstairs rental unit, and the building next door that houses Higher Grounds coffee shop, which has an extended lease. So far, Le P’tit Laurent is still open for business. Bon appetit!

Elsewhere, a couple of other long-term neighborhood businesses are cutting back on their open-every-day schedules.

The Cheese Boutique, at 660 Chenery St., is closed on Sundays and Mondays for the immediate future. Owner Joe Schuver is having health problems, so the rest of the staff is carrying on the business until he recovers and returns to work. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Many of the operators of our local businesses work six or seven days a week so that the rest of us can shop and dine locally at our convenience. In the words of Tony, the one-named pet-stuff purveyor at Critter Fritters, 670 Chenery St., “Retail is hard.”
Greetings, Glen Park neighbors!
It’s been a busy spring in the District 8 office.

Honoring 20 Years at Bird & Beckett: On May 14 I was proud to present Glen Park’s own Bird & Beckett Books & Records with a commendation at the Board of Supervisors, commemorating their 20th anniversary. At a time when San Francisco is losing far too many cultural and community centers, and beloved small businesses are being displaced, it’s more important than ever that we fight to preserve and support brick-and-mortar shops like Bird & Beckett. I am proud to represent Glen Park, where neighbors are committed to sustaining vital community institutions such as Bird & Beckett.

Ensuring Care for Our Most Vulnerable Residents: Last year the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 1045, authorizing a five-year pilot program for San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles counties to seek temporary conservatorships for people with serious mental health and addiction disorders.

Since October I’ve worked with Mayor London Breed to pass legislation implementing SB 1045 locally, so that we can begin to provide life-saving care to the most acute, vulnerable people living in crisis on our streets. On June 11, the implementation legislation was passed by the Board of Supervisors and SB 1045 now becomes law in our city.

Fighting for Housing and Homelessness in the Budget: With budget season in full swing at City Hall, I and my colleagues on the Budget and Finance Committee have identified our three top priorities in this year’s budget: housing and homelessness, public safety, and mental health and substance abuse. Over the past month we have held hearings on each of these topics to learn how City departments are addressing these issues, and what we can do in the next fiscal year to make meaningful new investments in each area.

As your supervisor, I want to hear how you think we should be prioritizing spending in the coming year. Please let me know by emailing my office at mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org.

Rafael Mandelman represents District 8, which includes Glen Park, on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

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**NEWS FROM CITY HALL**

**CHECK IT OUT AT THE LIBRARY**

H i from your friendly neighborhood library. Summer is finally here, and so is Summer Stride!

Summer Stride is the Library’s annual summer learning, reading and exploration program for all ages and abilities. Summer Stride successfully motivates children, teens and adults to record the time they spend at library programs and reading throughout the summer, by offering participants new experiences and a wonderful finishing prize.

This all-ages, citywide program started at the beginning of June and ends Aug. 18, and many free events will be available for the Glen Park community. Pick up a tracker at the Glen Park Branch Library to record your reading, listening and learning time, and work your way to a coveted finishing prize!

This year’s prize is a Summer Stride tote bag, featuring artwork by Zachariah O’Hara, illustrator of the picture book “Bikes for Sale by Carter Higgins.” Participants of all ages are eligible to receive the prize after completing 20 hours of reading, listening and learning time.

Time spent at the library counts toward your goal, so get the Stride Guide, which is your guide to this summer’s library programs. Packed full of the library’s offerings, the guide is available here at the Glen Park Branch or at any of the 28 San Francisco libraries.

Here is a small sampling of events scheduled for the Glen Park Branch:

- **Saturday, June 29, 3:30–4:30 p.m.—**Tree Trek Frogs (Family event)
- **Thursday, July 11, 3:30–5 p.m.—**Rock the Bike: Smoothies (Tweens event)
- **Monday, July 15, 3–4 p.m.—**Fog City Gardeners (Tweens event)
- **Saturday, July 27, 2:30–3:15 p.m.—**Samba Kids with James Henry (Family event)
- **Thursday, Aug. 15, 5:30–6 p.m.—**Jelly Jam Puppet Show (Family event)
- **Saturday, Aug. 17, 3–4:30 p.m.—**Paint with Wood (Adult event)

Exciting citywide partnerships power this year’s Summer Stride programming (sfpl.org, click on Summer Stride under the Summer Features heading on the home page). In one of its most widely subscribed programs, designated library branches work with the National Park Service to arrange free shuttle rides to outdoor adventures at nearby destinations such as Muir Woods, Land’s End and the Marin Headlands. StoryWalks® have been installed in the Presidio, featuring children’s books to increase the enjoyment of our beautiful parks.

The Library also offers summer weekly raffles. Prizes include free passes to local museums, SF Giants tickets, concert tickets and more. Patrons can enter the weekly raffles at the Glen Park Branch or any other library location.

The library is a lively community center, ready to assist the Glen Park community. San Francisco libraries are open seven days a week. You will find story times for babies; engineering and maker programs for teens; and magic shows, crafts, musical performances and summer films for families at our welcoming neighborhood libraries.

You can follow #SummerStride and #LibrariesForAll to keep up with all the excitement!

And have a great summer, from the staff of the Glen Park Library Branch! ✨

Michelle Waddy is the branch manager of the Glen Park Library.
Wilder Street Garden: A Growing Idea

On the short, narrow, very busy thoroughfare that is Wilder Street sits a sad, empty patch of ground. It’s BART property, fenced off to protect an auxiliary BART building on the site.

For years, neighbors have bemoaned its ugliness, and several of them try at least to keep the area around it free of trash.

Janet Tarlov, co-proprietor with her husband Richard of Canyon Market at Wilder and Diamond streets, got the idea of creating a community garden in the space. It could turn the eyesore into a place of beauty that would lift the spirits of users and passersby alike.

She said she has been inspired since her 2008 Earth Day involvement in beautifying and maintaining the Bernal Cut, which she continues to this day. Of the vacant Wilder space, she added, “I thought the same [improvement] could be true of this site. The work being done on the Greenway was also an inspiration.”

The Wilder Street Garden is a community project started by the Tarlovs and Canyon Market executive assistant Rachel Ross, who is the Wilder Garden committee chair. The market’s role is indirect support of the project, such as announcing meetings in its window or on its social media sites.

The design and use of the proposed garden are still being formulated. The available space is around 1,800 square feet, small in comparison to other community gardens in the city.

Most community gardens in San Francisco are managed and supported by the Rec and Park Department. If approved by the community, the Wilder Street Garden would be under BART’s control.

The garden committee did a walk-through of the site with BART Board director Bevan Duity. They held a meeting in December 2018 with neighbors and other Glen Park residents to gauge their interest and support. With no clear-cut proposal for the Wilder Street space, people were nevertheless receptive to exploring the idea further.

Janet Tarlov and others had visited a number of community gardens around the city to gather ideas. The gardens all varied in their purpose, organization and geography. “There’s no master plan, there are no officials involved—it’s a community decision,” she said.

One of the first hurdles was to get BART’s permission to use the space. They agreed to a two-year lease, with the option to extend it if all goes well. BART requires security around their building on the site, which means funds will need to be raised for fencing.

Like many public landscaping projects around the city—for instance, the Greenway along Bosworth Street in Glen Park—neighborhood and community volunteer groups need an umbrella organization to handle ongoing organization, liability insurance and fund-raising, as well as to lend credibility to the project. Fiscal sponsorship from the San Francisco Parks Alliance was approved in January.

A second community meeting was held March 12. With the possibility of the garden getting closer to reality, and more time to think about it, neighbors became more vocal with their concerns.

Marissa Alexander, southwest area manager of the Parks Alliance, attended as a resource for how the process works.

Scott Stawicki, president of the Glen Park Association, spoke about strength in numbers. “One person gets ignored when they try to interact with the City.

Community involvement elevates concerns to City agencies.”

There was overall agreement that Wilder Street is stretched to maximum use already, with businesses, traffic, two bus lines, residents and pedestrians.

Topping the list of concerns about the garden was security. People felt strongly that the garden should be locked at all times to prevent nefarious activity inside, and there should be set hours for activities on the ground.

Someone made a hyperbolic statement about “thousands of people” descending upon the area because of the garden. But, Alexander noted, studies have shown that making a space attractive and popular tends to deter crime, trash, tagging, loitering, drug use and the like—all of which have been mentioned as current problems on Wilder Street.

People wanted rules to address noise, since several properties abut the space. They also wanted any fencing to be attractive.

Traffic was raised as an issue, particularly double-parking as gardeners stop to load and unload supplies. Potential drainage problems were cited, because runoff from the garden might flow into lower-lying properties.

There was discussion about benefits vs. burdens of having a community garden, which only a few people would have access to. However, it was pointed out that people without backyards could grow things, which would beautify the area for everyone walking by.

Alexander enumerated the overall benefits of a green space to mental health, physical health and home values.

If the community gives a green light to the project, the next steps will include raising money and hiring a landscape architect to design the space. And, of course, more community meetings.
Renée Gonsalves

Renée will donate $700 for each Glen Park home sale to the Glen Park School PTO.

As a Glen Park resident, real estate specialist and enthusiast, I enjoy promoting all the special benefits of Glen Park to potential buyers every chance I get. I am raising my family here, my son attends Glen Park School, and we love the Glen Park Village community. I have lived in Glen Park for 16 years, sold more than 40 homes here, and over 250 homes in San Francisco.

If you are thinking of buying or selling a home, or know someone who is, please reach out. I am always happy to provide useful market information so you can make the best decisions.

See what my clients have to say on Yelp and Zillow!

I hired Renée to list my house and she performed flawlessly. She was meticulous in her management of stagers, cleaners, photographers, etc. and got the house to market right on schedule. Most importantly, her pricing strategy netted me over asking! If you are looking for a phenomenal Realtor, drop everything and call Renée!

— Stuart W.

I don’t have enough superlative adjectives in my vocabulary to describe why you should work with Renée for either buying or selling. She is kind, has integrity and will be your advocate in the home buying or selling process. Thanks, so much!

— Marjorie G.

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GLEN PARK NEIGHBORHOODS HISTORY PROJECT
(Glen Park, Glen Canyon, Sunnyside, Fairmount Heights and Diamond Heights)
Contact: Glenparkhistory@gmail.com
Website: Glenparkhistory.wixsite.com
Meetings: See website for details.

SAN FRANCISCO NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)
Contact: Glen Park coordinator
Susanna Russo, sgrdvm1@me.com
Website: sf-fire.org/neighborhood-emergency-response-team-ner
tMeetings: See website for training schedules.

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION:
Contact: info@sunnysideassociation.org; voice mail: 415-937-1305
Website: Sunnysideassociation.org
Address: P.O. Box 27615, SF CA 94127
Meetings: Quarterly. See website for details.
If you are looking for garden inspiration and want to get away from our summer fog, visit some of the outstanding public gardens in this area—they are great places to learn more about plants. These gardens offer classes, tours, family activities, picnic areas and super plant sales. Check out the websites before you visit for the address and direction, maps, hours, charges, parking and handicapped accessibility.

Glen Park Canyon: Our own wild and wooly wilderness. The Canyon is a hidden treasure of native plants, wildflowers and flourishing bird and insect life. This is a wonderful urban resource with miles of trails, a creek, a secretive seep and dramatic hills of chert where coyotes den. The Rec Center holds classes, and a new, safe playground. And it’s free. Elk, Bosworth & O’Shaughnessy: sfecpark.org/destination/glen-park.

San Francisco Botanical Garden: You can ramble forever through the 55 acres of plants, or picnic on the great lawn under the shade of mature trees. There are nearly 9,000 plants including rhododendrons, California natives, South African perennials and more. SFBG has a world-renowned, huge magnolia collection. Gardeners—note that if a plant thrives here, it will make it in a Glen Park garden. Watch for the regular sales of their propagated plants. Free to San Francisco residents. 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way; www.sfbg.org.

Filoli: The Filoli mansion and gardens are the haute couture of landscaping in the Bay Area. Manicured hedges and lawns surround formal beds packed with blooms, including a flourishing rose garden, pools, follies, carefully planned vistas and woodland walks. It’s possible to tour the elegant 1917 Willis Polk mansion. Classes are offered. Picnicking is possible on designated benches. The entry fees match the concept. Woodside; filoli.org.

Gamble Garden: I think this three-acre delight planted around the Gamble mansion is one of the prettiest small gardens one can visit. It is packed with blooming perennials. You could cover the whole garden in a couple of hours, or relax and have a picnic. They offer enticing classes and tours. A super place for a milestone celebration. Entry is free. Palo Alto; www.gamblegarden.org.

East Bay Regional Parks Botanical Garden: A 10-acre museum of native plants, redwoods, hiking trails, tours and regular classes. Weekly plant sales, plus a large plant sale in October, features California native plants. Entry is free. Tilden Park, North Berkeley; nativeplants.org.

UC-Berkeley Botanical Gardens: The unique focus of this well-tended garden is to develop and maintain a living collection of plants for worldwide research. There is focus on plants from a Mediterranean climate like ours. Regular sales and lots of family-friendly events featuring icky insects. Classes, plant sales and tours. Admission $12–15, and you will have to pay for parking. But it’s worth it—this is such a rich resource for plants lovers. Berkeley; botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

Ruth Bancroft Garden & Nursery: Ruth Bancroft, who recently died at age 109, moved to a Walnut Creek farm in 1939. Interested in science and the environment, she became a dry-garden pioneer, focusing on succulents, cacti and drought-tolerant plants. Talks and tours are offered, often by Brian Kemble, the current garden curator. It’s an invaluable resource for those interested in dry gardening with beauty and style. Entry is $10, parking available. Walnut Creek; ruthbancroftgarden.org.

Marin Art & Garden Center: This historical garden with its signature winding brick fence has been restored and is worth a visit, particularly on a summer evening for a concert on the lawn. This garden center aims to support the arts and provide environmental education. There are a school, art galleries, antique stores and a small library on site. Entry is free for the gardens, with a charge for concerts and other events. Ross; magc.org.

Quarry Hill Botanical Garden: Now for something completely different! Quarryhill is dedicated to the study of Asian plants, and many of their specimens are extremely rare or endangered. It’s a day trip—bring a notebook and a camera, and learn. There is a dazzling array of plants that are completely new to many people (certainly this writer). Because of the depth and complexity of the collection, I highly recommend a docent-led tour (about $17). Otherwise, entry is about $12 per adult; parking is free. Glen Ellen; quarryhillbg.org.

Western Hills Garden: Serious gardeners have been visiting Western Hills for years—the gleam in their eyes caused by the rare plants for sale. There are three acres of uncommon and endangered perennials, maples, conifers, azaleas, a pond, and ancient trees. The caretakers of this lovely site provide summer tours and plant sales. Very important to check the website for summer hours. $15/person entry (no fee for shopping only). Occidental; westernhillsbg.com.

UC-Santa Cruz Arboretum: There is always something blooming in this 135-acre garden with an outstanding collection of 300 plant families of Mediterranean climates. Scenic location. Plant sales, tours, classes. There is a small charge for admission. Santa Cruz; arboretum.ucsc.edu.

I hope you can visit some of these treasured places. I have not listed the county, state and federal parks in this area—that’s another column. Those websites are easily found though by searching online. Happy trails!

Kay Hamilton Estey is the Glen Park Garden Club columnist. For more information about the garden club, including its activities and lecture series, contact her at kay.estey@gmail.com.
Central Pacific Railroad—Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins, Leland Stanford and Charles Crocker—inspired by Judah’s vision, had won the federal contract to build the western portion of the transcontinental railroad under the Pacific Railroad Act.

Once the last iron spike had been driven at Promontory in 1869, the Central Pacific entered an expansion period. Buying up and consolidating smaller railroads in the West, including the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad, the new monopoly would become famously known as “the Octopus” as it continued to grow. By 1870, the Big Four had adopted the name of one of those consolidated lines, the Southern Pacific.

SP trains continued to run along the eastern edge of Fairmount and Glen Park along today’s San Jose Avenue and past Sunnyside along Circular Avenue until 1942. The demands of World War II required additional military transport, causing railroads to pull passenger cars from public service. Following the war, the Southern Pacific did not reinstate passenger service, ending the history of railroads in our district.

Our connection to the Transcontinental Railroad doesn’t stop there, however. The wealthiest of the Big Four, Leland Stanford, once owned 590 acres that stretched from Twin Peaks through Glen Canyon to the northern section of today’s Sunnyside. He sold the land in December 1890 to James P. McCarthy, who in short order sold some of the acreage to the founder of Sunnyside and San Francisco’s first electric railway, Behrend Joost.

Then, at some point between 1890 and 1897, the acreage in and around Glen Canyon became the property of the estate of Charles Crocker, another member of the Big Four, who had died in 1888. The Crocker Estate released these lands by 1921 for residential and recreational use. These are surprising revelations that connect our district to a significant event in America’s transportation history, and certainly influenced the early development of our neighborhoods.

Evelyn Rose, project director and founder of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project, is documenting the histories of Glen Park and nearby neighborhoods. To learn more, visit www.GlenParkHistory.org.
Owls Briefly Return to Glen Canyon Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

near the Glenridge building. One trained his binoculars on an Arroyo willow.

“That’s a black-throated gray warbler,” he announced to a trio of Friends of Glen Canyon Park. “They’re uncommon.”

But then another sighting caught the birder’s eye—two great horned owls.

A gum tree, which stands only yards from the Recreation Center, had once again become a refuge for an owl family.

Nesting in leafy eucalyptus duff fronted by a lengthy bib of bark, two juveniles posed. Their eyes were yellow halos, their ear tufts white or buff-colored. Ignoring the onlookers, each spent time grooming the other. Secure in their bower, they swiveled their rotations.

The two infants extricated themselves from threads of branches their parents had quilted. They were two Adult owls’ fledged feathers keep warm, allowing each to fly silently, the better to prey upon rabbits, gophers, skunks, even crows, ravens and hawks. With their powerful talons, hoot owls can sever the spine of larger mammals. It requires 28 pounds of pressure to relinquish their grasp.

The most widely distributed owls in America, great horned owls are perfectly at home in Glen Canyon, with its habitats of woodland interspersed with California native grasses.

The family had gone missing three years ago, although there were intermittent sightings on the west side of Islais Creek. In March 2016 a female owl of the two more conspicuous. Their parents were out and about, hunting food for the ravenous pair. At their age, each owlet is capable of downing up to five or six rodents an evening. By the age of nine to 10 weeks, they are capable of leaving the nest and hunting for themselves. By June’s end they’d be on their own. But in April, the family remained an attraction.

Adult owls’ ruffled feathers keep warm, allowing each to fly silently, the better to prey upon rabbits, gophers, skunks, even crows, ravens and hawks. With their powerful talons, hoot owls can sever the spine of larger mammals. It requires 28 pounds of pressure to relinquish their grasp.

The most widely distributed owls in America, great horned owls are perfectly at home in Glen Canyon, with its habitats of woodland interspersed with California native grasses.

The family had gone missing three years ago, although there were intermittent sightings on the west side of Islais Creek. In March 2016 a female owl was found dead on the trail just west of the creek, a victim of rat poison. Some San Franciscans continue to use those convenient, deadly bait boxes. Then the owls consume rodents that have died in the traps.

After the corpse of the female was transferred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a necropsy was performed. A preliminary report showed the death was consistent with anticoagulant rodenticide toxicosis.

This year, on the first Saturday in April, a group of children from Dolores Huerta Elementary School, accompanied by their teacher, Helena Young, gathered up the trail from the owls’ home. Unsure where the tree was, Young approached two walkers: “We heard the baby owls are back,” she said. “The children dissected owl pellets in class. Can you tell us where we can find the owls?”

The two friends could. Photographs of the birds were shared; and directions provided.

Young led the children. “Isn’t it wonderful, learning about the wonders of the city?” she called over her shoulder.

The following Monday morning witnessed a similar pilgrimage, only with a different demographic. A group of friends assembled beneath the destination tree. Each was on the afternoon side of 65. Each was dressed from an REI catalog, and each had a bag lunch.

But that day the baby owls were out of sight.

The group struck out, heading north along Alms Road, ready to sample the canyon’s other treats. They continued along the trail, ducking beneath willow boughs and skirting mud holes. Backtracking down the path, they took to the west side of the creek. They halted to take a photograph, then stopped where Young had corralled her students the previous Saturday.

The retirees continued toward the owl tree. Again, they were disappointed. But they’d be back.

The owls, for sure.
Tyger’s: A Popular Glen Park Tradition

In San Francisco, the simple diner fare at Tyger’s sits in stark contrast to the torrent of restaurants touting local-organic-free-range-non-GMO-vegan menus. But in many ways, that is its strength. With its unpretentious home cooking, Tyger’s is free to focus on what matters most to its owners, staff and patrons: a genuine sense of community.

Tyger’s, in the heart of downtown Glen Park at the corner of Diamond and Chenery streets, operates in a space formerly occupied by a druggist offering beer directly from the keg. But it was when current owners, Young and Susie Kim, took over in 1997 that the diner developed the homey and welcoming character it’s known for today.

The couple emigrated from South Korea in 1986, working in other restaurants before being hired at Tyger’s—he as a cook, she as a waitress—in 1988. Young guesses the family-like atmosphere they have created in the restaurant stems from their own personalities. “I don’t like being a boss,” he said sheepishly. “I just like being friends! Maybe that’s why.”

Their staff must be happy, because they each average more than a decade on the job at Tyger’s. Young quickly ticked off the length of employment there for each one, using the custom-decorated wall clock adorned with caricatures of his team’s faces grinning from above the gurgling coffee-maker. “I’d guess half the customers are regulars,” said Lily Nguyen, a Tyger’s waitress and one of the newbies who has worked there since 2017. “Sometimes I put in a customer’s order when I see them walking down the street.”

Minutes later, she proves it, yelling “Hello, Bob! How are you? Same thing?” She speaks to him out of habit as she walks toward the kitchen scribbling down the order while he smiles silently and finds a seat.

Tyger’s is the type of place where old-timers gather at the same table several times a week to go over the previous night’s game scores and complain about the changing city, where young families bring their toddlers for smiley-face pancakes and where single diners feel right at home sitting at the counter to thumb through a newspaper as they eat. The crowd is diverse and unpretentious. The wait staff refills coffee mugs and cups of iced tea without being asked.

The menu is typical diner food: BLTs, burgers, chicken-fried steak. But pancakes remain the most popular item. And eggs—scrambled, fried or made into French toast batter—also are a mainstay, with some 1,800 served every week. Tyger’s is open only for breakfast and lunch.

On a recent weekday morning, local Suma McGourty and two out-of-town visitors sat at a table fueling up on omelets and pancakes for a day at Ocean Beach and Golden Gate Park. A recent transplant to the neighborhood (from far-flung Bernal Heights), McGourty had only been to Tyger’s twice before. But she felt confident adding it to her guests’ San Francisco agenda, as it had been introduced to her by Fred Mackota, whose family has roots in the area going back 100 years. “I don’t eat out for breakfast often, so Tyger’s is a treat for me,” she said. “You can tell by the food that their cook really cares, unlike other places where it seems like they’re just putting in their time.”

One of the regulars is building owner Anna Victorson, who can be seen a couple of times a week handing her own organic, fertilized eggs from Canyon Market down the street to the Tyger’s cook for her sunny-side-up breakfast. “Although Susie Kim retired a few years ago, she’s still fondly remembered. “It was like a party in here!” Victorson reminisces. “All the girls who work here call Susie ‘mama.’ It’s like a family.”
Neighbors Step Up to Improve Stairs

The Detroit Street Steps got a spruce-up on June 8, when Sunnyside volunteers held a Cleanup and Celebration Day. Neighbors worked alongside Public Works’ Green and Clean Team, weeding the upper and lower steps. It’s the start of a long-term renewal of the steps, which can be dark, slippery and perilous at night.

“The lower Detroit Steps were built before 1938, when they were captured in an aerial survey of San Francisco,” said Amy O’Hair, assistant project director of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project. “The upper steps, which ascend from Monterey Boulevard to Joost Avenue, were built over the next generation,” she said.

Old and in need of some TLC, the steps haven’t yet undergone the transformation that other popular stair-streets have (think the 16th Avenue Tiled Steps, the Filbert Steps, etc.) but residents have started the process.

The $25,000 to launch the project comes from a City grant that was voted on over the course of 14 days in April. Anyone 16 years and older who lives in supervisorial District 7—a wide swath of San Francisco that stretches from the Sunnyside and includes Midtown Terrace, Mt. Davidson, Monterey Heights, West Portal and St. Francis Wood—could vote for the District 7 Participatory Budget proposal, “Landscaping and Art for the Sunnyside Detroit Steps.”

“The amount is the maximum grant available,” District 7 Legislative Assistant Erica Maybaum said.

At a Feb. 23 kickoff event near the foot of the 70 lower steps, between Monterey Boulevard and Hearst Avenue, Rosaura Valle, a project leader, greeted some 30 Sunnyside neighbors. “This is a wonderful project that brings us together,” she told her audience. “It will make the stairway safer and beautiful.”

The Sunnyside neighborhood is represented by Supervisor Norman Yee, who has championed the Participatory Budgeting Process that allows San Franciscans an opportunity to recommend and vote on how some public funds are apportioned in participating districts.

“For the past six years, participatory budgeting has been successful in District 7,” Yee said in an email. “Each year there is increased involvement that builds civic engagement, leadership and lasting relationships with our neighborhoods.”

On June 8 Yee, dressed in jeans and running shoes, dropped by the Celebration and Cleanup event and watched Sunnyside neighbors and a dozen members of Public Works’ Green and Clean Team at work. While he chatted with Detroit Steps advocates Valle and Suna Mullins, volunteers weeded the slope along the lower steps as a dozen City workers uprooted fennel, ivy and ehhrharta and collected garbage along the upper steps.

Several years ago, Yee assisted volunteers in cleaning up the Monterey Boulevard medians, and on the Board of Supervisors, he has been assertive in securing funds for community parks and street improvements.

For this fiscal year, $300,000 is earmarked for general projects, which is the line item from which the Detroit Steps Project received its 2019 funding. Another $250,000 went to Vision Zero/pedestrian safety, while $100,000 was awarded to projects dealing with disaster preparedness.

“We’re a core group that resides close to the steps and we used NextDoor and email to communicate with one another,” Suna Mullins said. Mullins, the mother of two children, lives on Flood Avenue. “With support of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, we took ownership of the project.”

The planning process began last November, when members of the Sunnyside Dozen attended a 90-minute meeting. That session led to a two-hour meeting on Nov. 17, when participants unraveled the ins and outs of the Participatory Budgeting Process and obtained feedback on their proposal.

By Jan. 5, they submitted their project, alongside 46 others. Each proposal was reviewed by the City for feasibility and budgetary concerns. Modifications were made as necessary. On Jan. 12, each was filtered through the lens of a Neighborhood Council of District 7 residents. Proposals were placed on a ballot between April 1 and April 14, then eligible voters exercised their franchise either online or in person.

Of the 46 project proposals, 26 were given the nod, including four from the Sunnyside. The Detroit Steps Project was good to go.

“The $25,000 is sufficient to initiate the preparation phase of the project, and we will work with Public Works on drainage possibilities, step repair and maintenance,” Mullins said. “We’d like to fix the fence behind the Detroit Street bus stop, making it more inviting and pleasant, and repair railings, as well.”

Additionally, with an eye upon the budgetary bottom line, there are plans to prepare the slopes adjacent to the steps for terracing, for drought-tolerant plant landscaping, and for installation of retaining walls.

Mullins, who has lived on Flood

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A Public Works employee spruces up the Detroit Street steps greenway.

Photo by Murray Schneider

Taking Next Steps On Detroit Stairs

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Avenue for all but six months of her life, knows that the $25,000 award can be stretched only so far. Phase Two of the project will need more cash.

“Our group meets on the first Tuesday of each month,” said Mullins. “We are applying for a Community Challenge Grant. The applications are due in the fall. We’re talking with neighbors about ideas for beautification, determining best practices and envisioning designs.”

Under consideration are tile steps and decorative waste and recycling bins.

“For me it’s personal,” Mullins said. “I grew up seeing blight. The Sunnyside Conservatory was an eyesore, a hangout for underage drinking, Balboa Park and Sunnyside Park existed, but not to the pristine landscaping and renovated state they do today.”

The Detroit Steps “seem to be the last public space that hasn’t really improved over the years,” she continued. “This is our opportunity to transform blight to beauty, to make this place a better space for our children.”

Mullins envisions the Detroit Steps entering the realm of other heralded steps in San Francisco, many of which are highlighted in Adah Bakalinsky’s Stairway Walks in San Francisco: The Joy of Urban Exploring.

If Rosaura Valle has her way, the days of the Sunnyside flying under the radar will end. “We would like to see the Detroit Steps in every book on San Francisco walks and stairways,” she said.

In her turn, Suna Mullins put her spin on what it all means. “There may be neighborhoods like Pacific Heights with high profiles and reputations that are better known,” she said. “but there are so many little gems, such as the Sunnyside, that go under the mainstream radar.”

Born and Raised
Glen Park Native, Neighbor, and Real Estate Resource

Having grown up on Chenery Street, I know how just special this neighborhood and community is. My wife and I attended Glenridge Nursery School and are now raising our two young children here.

One of my recent contributions to our community was working with Evelyn Rose and my Parlor at the Native Sons of the Golden West to raise 100% of the funds needed to purchase and install the plaque dedicated to the historic dynamite factory in Glen Park. Other local memberships include The Glen Park Neighborhood Association, SPUR, The Small Properties Owners Institute, The Residential Builders Association, and The Olympic Club.

As a real estate agent at Compass, my business specializes in buying and selling a mix of residential, commercial, multifamily and new construction properties. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any needs, questions, or just want to chat regarding real estate.

Client Testimonial

“Kevin was our agent for our rental property that we purchased in San Francisco. We interviewed 4 agents and we quickly realized that Kevin had much more knowledge of the SF market compared to the others. This is the 7th real estate transaction that my husband and I have done and Kevin is by far the best agent we have encountered. He was professional, patient, courteous, and extremely knowledgeable. He was extremely organized and ensured that we found a place within 90 days of working with him in order to avoid paying massive fees through our 1031 Exchange.”

—Glen Park Neighbor, Vidya B.

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The Bruce Bochy most people know is finishing a storied major league career as a big-league baseball catcher and manager of the San Francisco Giants.

But there’s another Bruce Bochy, the Chenery Street one, and he’s caught a few knuckleballs himself. He is in mid-career and has his own manager. And he has four legs.

Mary Daly keeps him in top-notch shape, noting, “Bruce gets in his innings every day.”

After taking turns around Glen Canyon’s Islais Creek with Daly, Bruce ambles by the Thelma Williams baseball diamond and then out to Elk Street toward home.

Bruce is a black Labrador-Newfoundland mix who tips the scales at 130 pounds and moves with the speed of a glacier. He prefers kibble to the lump of chewing tobacco some two-legged baseball figures tuck into a cheek.

“Bruce gets six bowls a day,” said Daly, a post-partum nurse who often clocks 10-hour-or-more shifts at a San Francisco hospital. To unwind, she predictably returns to Glen Canyon.

She offered up a daily prescription for good health: “No matter how hard a day you’ve had, get up and walk a dog.”

Daly is a longtime Giants fan who reveled in watching the other Bruce finesse her hometown team to three Major League championships in six years. She has lived in her Chenery Street house since 1994, and she’s no stranger to outsized canines. She has been rescuing behemoths for decades—St. Bernards, to be specific.

“There was Tucker, a boy who lived to be 11, then Penny, a girl. She lived to see 10 years. Then Josie, who lived to be eight,” said Daly, who saved each canine orphan from a premature demise. “Bruce is six now,” said Daly. “You know,” said Daly, a native of Ireland, “the right dog always speaks to you through a cage.”

A lot has been written about dogs and us. How people have kept them as pets for 12,000-plus years. How they’re our best friends. How they don’t hold grudges, question our motives. How they provide us exercise, how they are ice-breakers when we approach other dog walkers whom we might not ordinarily engage in conversation. On any given day, Glen Canyon is fertile ground to test such theories.

We share our lives with dogs because of their capacity to express affection unconditionally. They are our alarm system; they protect us, they become our children’s guardians and playmates. They offer us therapy and service, they sit in firehouses, leap from police cars, and circle airport check-in lines as part of TSA K9 units.

They comfort and calm us.

In our turn, we pamper and pet them, make them part of our families.

The United States has the highest dog population in the world; the French a distant second. We spend a king’s ransom on pet food and veterinary bills, and an estimated 1 million dogs have been named as primary beneficiaries in their custodian’s wills.

In San Francisco, the seemingly fanciful statistic that there are more dogs than children in the city of St. Francis is true. San Francisco Animal Care and Control estimated in 2016 that there were 115,000 children under 18 living in the city, compared to 120,000 dogs.

One day in late April, Daly took a walk in the park, with Bruce leading the way, sniffing trailside ivy along Alms Road.

Despite the occasional encounter, coyotes that den on either side of the creek typically stay clear of dog walkers. Mary Daly has a gambit, which has proven efficacious with her St. Bernards and now with Bruce.

“Walk lightly,” she said, “and bring a big dog.”

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**Glen Park's Own Tail-Wagging Bruce Bochy**

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Summer is Here!

Picnics, BBQs and kids running in the Canyon.

Swing by the market for organic produce, fresh in-house-baked bread, local cheeses, full-service deli and catering. Canyon Market has been serving the Glen Park neighborhood since 2006 and for that we THANK YOU!

2815 Diamond Street in Glen Park
415-586-9999
Catering Services catering@canyonmarket.com
Follow us at @canyonmarket

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Bruce Bochy walks with Mary Daly in Glen Canyon.  Photo by Murray Schneider
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approved at San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency hearings, and a final mailer would go out to homes within 250 feet of the proposed location closer to the time of the hearing, he said.

The MTA itself posts hearing agendas on telephone poles near proposed changes about a week in advance.

Hu-Nguyen said if the process goes smoothly, a hearing could take place by the end of summer. Hu-Nguyen was optimistic about this timeline.

“I think before there were a lot of crossed wires,” he said. “Now people are clear about what we’re doing and how it works. At this point, neighbors have a direct line to us, to the MTA” and to their representative on the Board of Supervisors.

Lyft had to remove its electric pedal-assist bikes from service in May for safety reasons, but they should return to San Francisco streets later this summer. Hu-Nguyen was optimistic about this timeline.

“Currently, the process is such that the MTA has to solicit bids for another 11,000 dockless bikeshare permits, a four-fold expansion of the existing fleet. Lyft claims its contract with the City gave it exclusive rights to offer bikeshare in San Francisco. The City maintains that the contract covers only docked bikes.

Use of the Randall station, which is atop a steep hill, declined significantly when the e-bikes were removed, according to data collected by the MTA. The station, which was installed March 18, is frequently empty. That pleas Byron Hing, who lives kitty-corner to the 19-dock station and initially opposed it because Randall is such a narrow street.

“I think it’s turned out well,” he said. Since the racks are often empty or only half full, it has the effect of widening the street. The rack at Randall sits outside Dolores Huerta Elementary School (formerly Fairmount Elementary). Parent Matt Hill said he appreciates the increased visibility at the busy intersection.

“There’s no more cars or trucks or SUVs blocking the view,” he said. “Even if the racks are full, you can see through the bikes.”

That safety benefit is one reason the San Francisco Unified School District generally supports having bikeshare stations on corners adjacent to its schools, according to Nik Kaestner, director of the district’s Office of Sustainability.

There is also hope that the bikes would be an option for parents who live close enough to schools to walk but who drive now because they then drive to work.

“This way, the walking becomes more enticing because you have this option to do this second leg of the trip,” Kaestner said.

But no one seems to have asked the parents at the school whether the bike station would be useful to them, and no parents interviewed said they know of other Huerta parents who use the Randall station.

Neither the district nor the school informed parents about the site, and there was no outreach by MTA or Lyft prior to the flyer posted on nearby telephone poles a week prior to the July 7 hearing last summer. That vacuum was then filled with flyers opposing the site that were pasted liberally around the school and neighborhood.

“I don’t recall any outreach to the school community in English, let alone Spanish,” said Emmalena Quesada, a bilingual parent at the Spanish immersion school.

Quesada appreciates bikeshare but does not support the Randall site. She and others suggested alternative locations closer to the nearby San Jose Avenue bike lane that would have affected the school less, but they never heard back from MTA.

Elva Reyes Espinosa initially opposed the location in part because of the loss of parking, though finding parking has not ended up being an issue for her, she said. But the traffic situation has definitely not improved, she added.

Waiting for her passengers, the driver of a long yellow school bus parked on Randall asked not to be named but called the station “OK.” She’s seen only one issue, and that was when Lyft GoBike was replenishing the station and parked its delivery van at an angle that prevented the bus from getting around the corner.
On the Job with Ingleside Police Officers

If you’ve ever wanted to be a fly on the wall watching a San Francisco Police Department officer at work, you can do a ride-along in a patrol car for a few hours. The SFPD encourages civilians to ride with officers, to become familiar with the daily operations of the department.

That’s what I did one Monday in April, with Officer Jen Foxworth. She was on traffic enforcement that day. This will be pretty humdrum, I said to myself before the ride got underway. Although nothing too dramatic happened, it was still unpredictable and fascinating.

Glen Park is a small slice of the sprawling, diverse Ingleside Police District. We started just driving around, through the Excelsior—where a former tenant was seeking entry into his boarded-up residence—to Visitacion Valley—where a man “having a bad day” was walking his bike on the T-line tracks—to Bernal Heights Park, where Foxworth warned visitors about a rash of car recent break-ins.

In between random incidents, she responded to a few dispatch calls, like one in Noe Valley where a man was screaming and swinging at frightened bystanders.

In each encounter, Foxworth was firm and confident, yet respectful and helpful. Some situations were convoluted and took a while to unspool.

In St. Mary’s Park, Foxworth stopped a red-light runner. Foxworth frisked him. Asked for his license, the driver, with a winning smile, presented a California ID card.

“I could lose my job,” Foxworth told him. “According to his prior arrest, they had to impound the car, which he used for work and which belonged to his wife, the man became distraught. He tried to bargain, but was told there could be no discretion or exception. “I could lose my job,” Foxworth told him.

Foxworth did some paperwork, took fingerprints and gave the red-light runner a slip with a court date. A tow truck arrived and took the car away. The now-uncuffed driver was left on the street to figure out the rest of his day.

The brief experience felt like being in a parallel universe. All the while, the radio crackling with chatter about incidents in the Ingleside and the two other police districts assigned to that dispatch.

Yet outside things seemed peaceful and chill. “That’s just how we want the public to feel,” said Foxworth.

If you’re interested in doing a ride-along, contact Captain Jack Hart at the Ingleside Station: jack.hart@sfgov.org

Neighbors Partner with Police to Stop Local Crime

It started with a neighbor’s home being burglarized about 15 years ago.

Our neighbor was elderly and lived alone but, like clockwork, she walked her dog every day at the same time and along the same route. One day while she was on her walk late one weekday morning, her home was broken into. From what we could tell, her house was targeted within the short window of that regular walk.

Following that break-in, I got in touch with San Francisco SAFE to help start a Neighborhood Watch on my block. I became a block captain and regularly attended the captain’s monthly meetings at the Ingleside Police Station.

One summer, Ingleside Station held a barbeque where I met the then-new captain. During my conversation with him, I explained why I had become so interested in neighborhood issues—specifically, in ways to increase awareness around crime. He asked if I would be volunteer for a new group the police chief was creating, called the Community Police Advisory Board, or CPAB.

The purpose of the CPAB is to have individuals who either live or work in a neighborhood meet once a month to brainstorm solutions to issues including, but not limited to, crime and quality of life. A key issue is solutions that don’t require additional financial resources from the City.

When the newly formed Ingleside CPAB convened, the first thing we did was to create a list of projects for the district. I wanted to focus on Glen Park, so we studied what comprised the majority of crimes—property, personal, home; when and where the majority of crimes were occurring, and who was being targeted.

Glen Park has a BART station, multiple Muni lines, access to the 280 and 101 freeways, and tech buses. This makes this area accessible, but also makes it a target for many crimes. With easy access to transportation routes, criminals may snatch a purse, a laptop or cell phone and easily get away on BART, Muni or by car on a freeway.

We made wallet-size cards, plus posters to hang in the windows of local businesses. On the back were both emergency and non-emergency phone numbers. We asked the Ingleside officers to help pass out the cards at the BART station so that people would be more likely to engage with an officer than a civilian.

Did it work? While it did not completely stop criminal activity, we hope it at least made people more aware of their surroundings and how to not become a victim.

Carey Rutigliano is a volunteer on the Ingleside CPAB, and represents the Ingleside on the Citywide CPAB.
Namesake School Mural Honors Dolores Huerta

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

family that “really appreciates art” and developed a “passion for education and social justice.” She found a way to incorporate the two through her art.

“The mural was created to commemorate the school’s name change, which is an historic moment, but also, to educate,” Wojczuk said. “People from this area know of Dolores Huerta, but many do not know a lot about how significant she was and continues to be.”

Wojczuk said she also learned from the students while working on this project, and she emphasized the importance of art in schools.

The wind carried the excited voices of children through the school courtyard to the stairway facing the mural, where Principal Luis Rodriguez addressed them in Spanish and English. After

he introduced the muralists, three students spoke about their experiences creating the artwork.

A girl named Lucy said, “I learned about Dolores Huerta before this; I mean, I knew who she was, but now I know how important she is and why.”

The San Francisco Board of Education voted last fall to rename Fairmount Elementary School at Randall and Chenery streets in honor of Huerta, who co-founded the United Farm Workers Union in the 1970s. Now 89 years old, Huerta spoke at the renaming ceremony on May 17. The unveiling of the mural came two weeks later.

Mora, who attended Fairmount Elementary as a child, spoke about her experience at the school, and the recent name change. “I thought it was amazing,” she said. “My education here was somewhat radical. I had great teachers who taught me about my roots, and what it meant to be Latina. With this mural project, I feel like I have come full circle.”

When changing the school’s name was first suggested, not everyone approved. Elva Reyes-Espinosa, who has a fifth grader at the school and a seventh grader who graduated from Fairmount, said, “At first, I was hesitant, but then I got really excited and grew to be enthusiastic, especially because the name change was rooted in history, and why it matters.”

Wojczuk said the mural includes Latino and Filipino farm workers, as well as people representing current social justice movements, such as a teacher with a sign that reads “Fair Pay,” a “No Guns” sign, and buttons on young people that advocate for “Free College,” an idea espoused by Huerta at the renaming ceremony.

The dominant feature of the mural is Huerta with a megaphone and the words, “¡Si Se Puede!”—in English, “Yes We Can!” In the 1970s it became the popular rallying cry for the emerging farmworkers’ movement.

As the children and artists gathered in front of the mural, a red ribbon was rolled out and one boy was given the honor of handling the oversized scissors for the ceremonial ribbon cutting. Then, as the cheers echoed throughout the school yard, the students walked slowly back to their classrooms.

Although the name has been officially changed, and the mural dedicated, Principal Rodriguez said there is still much work left to do, including installation of a plaque recognizing the historic Fairmount School—one of the oldest in the city; construction of a falcon on San Jose Avenue and Randall Street whose wings will move with the wind; and removal of the Fairmount School name from a concrete wall.

“In terms of completion, some physical aspects remain, but I don’t think there is ever going to be a completion, because there will always be a process to implement the ideals of Dolores Huerta,” Rodriguez said.

“The practical and technical changes will take time,” he said, “but being able to incorporate Huerta’s ideals and move toward a society that is more aware of social justice issues will take longer. We are really excited about going beyond a name change, and creating a school that lives up to the Dolores Huerta name with the support of the community.”

Students participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new mural representing labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta. Photo by Susan Sutton
Greetings from Glen Park Elementary School! After an eventful spring, we've put a cap on the 2018-19 school year.

Our Big Blue School found itself at the center of international attention when the existence of a GoFundMe page supporting one of our teachers was picked up by news outlets. The teacher, who wishes to remain anonymous, is out on leave while fighting breast cancer. Because teachers do not pay into the state disability program, California and San Francisco Unified School District rules require that a teacher on extended medical leave pay the cost of the substitute teacher.

Parents, faculty and staff rallied to exceed the fundraising goal of a GoFundMe campaign and defray the teacher’s substitute-teacher, medical and other costs, but not before the situation came to the attention of local news media. From there, the story spread across the nation and around the globe, appearing in media outlets from Europe to Asia.

The extra attention resulted in a week of news trucks parked on Brompton Avenue, angry phone calls to the school office, and comments on the school’s Facebook page, but faculty and staff did an admirable job of minimizing the impact it had on students.

In the meantime, the school community kept things busy throughout the spring. Here are a few of the highlights:

- On April 13, parents, faculty and staff members came together to enjoy good food and live music, celebrate our school, and raise money for the Parent Teacher Organization at our annual Auction Night. This year’s auction featured a first—a Fund-a-Need event to help support the school’s garden program.

- On April 28, we spread the word about Big Blue at the Glen Park Festival. Students, future students and others stopped by our booth to chat and to make spin art.

- On May 31, students exhibited their skills at the Spring Visual and Performing Arts Showcase. Our talented kids showed off their singing, dancing and artistic talents for the school community in the auditorium.

- And, finally, we brought the school year to a close on June 4. But the end of the school year doesn’t mean activity is coming to halt. There are events scheduled for incoming kindergarten families throughout the summer.

The Glen Park PTO will host playdates at the playground in Glen Canyon Park. The playdates are scheduled on Sunday, June 23, 10 a.m.-noon; Saturday, July 20, 1-3 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 4, 1-3 p.m. These events are a great opportunity to meet other families and make new friends ahead of the start of the school year.

Our kindergarten teachers will host a kindergarten welcome mixer to give incoming students and parents a chance to meet their teachers and see their classrooms. The mixer is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 3-3:45 p.m. More details will be available in early August when welcome packets go out. You can also check glenparkschool.org/calendar for the latest updates.

Enjoy your summer, and we’ll see you in the fall!

Eric Kammerud is the communications co-chair of the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization. For updates on school events, go to glenparkschool.org. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/glenparkschool.
Help for the Homeless: The seemingly intractable issue of homelessness throughout San Francisco was on the agenda at the Glen Park Association’s spring meeting at the Recreation Center on April 25.

Officer Luis Tillan, of the San Francisco Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team, spoke about the Healthy Streets Operation Center for dispatchers. All involved City agencies work together to coordinate their response to homelessness issues.

When officers approach an encampment, Tillan said, they call dispatch to make contact with a Navigation Center for a bed. Officers offer to help the homeless individuals they encounter pack up and get transport to the facility. If no bed is available, people are only admonished.

Tillan said a majority of sidewalk dwellers in San Francisco don’t want to go to a Navigation Center, or they go and come back to the street within a few weeks. If they refuse help, they can be arrested and their tent and belongings confiscated; SF Public Works will catalogue the items and safeguard them for up to 120 days.

“I go out of my way to help these people get out of their rut,” said Tillan.

Closer to home, Tillan addressed the issue of campers under the Highland and Richland bridges over San Jose Avenue, along the Bernal Cut. The Highland Bridge area has been fenced off but, for budgetary reasons, the Richland bridge area has not. The SFPD is ramping up patrols, and fire department officers to vet the situation.

Glen Park Open Spaces: The Street Parks Program is a partnership of Public Works, the SF Parks Alliance and San Francisco residents, in which communities transform parcels of City-owned land into places of natural refuge and beauty. Since its inception in 2004, 150 projects have been completed or are in progress.

Rameses Alvarez from Public Works, and Doug Wildman, deputy director of Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), spoke about a project in Glen Park—the Arlington path behind the houses on the east side of Arlington Street between Wilder and Roanoke streets. It’s Public Works’ property; in addition, there’s a San Francisco Public Utilities Commission structure there.

For the past couple of years, volunteers, the Fix-It Team, Public Works and the Glen Park Association, have had regularly scheduled work days, clearing fence and brush, weeding, mulching and picking up trash.

FUF is proposing an ambitious project that would use some of the land as a tree nursery and garden. The nursery would grow approximately 300 street trees in containers (almost 100 per year), which would then be transplanted all over the city. FUF would be responsible for the tree nursery and would help with weeding. The Public Works Clean and Green Team will also pitch in.

Other landscaping goals are to prune trees; replace, upgrade and relocate fencing; and install connecting walkways. Maintenance of the land will be done by community volunteers.

A lot of money is needed. SFPW is providing $100,000 for fencing, but $300,000 is needed. The mayor’s office has allocated another $100,000. The rest of the fencing costs will need to come from private fund-raising and grants. Wildman said they’re ready to go with their plans, but approvals and community input are still needed.

For information about SF street parks, go to sfpublicworks.org/streetparks.

The Greenway: Project manager Nicholas Dewar gave a shout-out to both the recent rainy season and the volunteers who put in 1,700 hours of work over 16 months to provide a big boost to the Greenway, which runs along the north side of Bosworth Street between Brompton and Burnside streets.

The tree planting is complete. Seventeen saplings of coastal oaks and silk tassels were planted, along with 36 local acorns from Golden Gate Park. Biologically, it’s much healthier to grow trees from acorns, because the trees develop healthier root systems. The new native shrubs and raised display beds are blooming, providing habitat for birds and bees.

With fanfare, new signage was unveiled at the Brompton Street entrance. The first water meter has come online. For the past two years, a neighbor generously donated his residential water to get the plantings established before the Greenway water supply was available.

The next step is improvement of the trail itself, between Brompton and Lippard, and Lippard and Chilton. A topographical survey and preliminary designs have been done. This year will be heavy on fund-raising, with construction starting next year. The surface will probably be aggregate material. Also on the way is a new plot that will be tended by the Glen Park Garden Club.
“Marc did a phenomenal job selling our home!”
“Marc and his team did everything to ensure we received top dollar for our home and that it was as painless as possible. He was patient and thorough in all the details. His team responded at all hours of the day and no question was too small or silly. He is incredibly professional, responsive, caring, and it’s clear he loves what he does. Thank you Marc, we truly felt supported throughout this whole process.” — J.C., 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:
LOCAL SCHOOL MUSIC AND ART PROGRAMS

**NEWS FROM DIAMOND HEIGHTS**

The Diamond Heights Boulevard Median Project is sponsoring an intern for the Vincent Buchanan Summer Internship Program. The Median Project is asking for financial support to ensure ongoing maintenance of our median islands and to provide meaningful work for a young person in the neighborhood.

Vincent was our first intern, last summer. We named our internship to remember him and to attract others who share his love of nature and making our public spaces beautiful and safe. Grants from the City do not permit paying for maintenance. If you would like to help, send a check made out to the San Francisco Parks Alliance (our fiscal sponsor) to Diamond Heights Boulevard Median Project, 5031 Diamond Heights Blvd., San Francisco, 94131. For instructions on contributing online, email Paul Matalucci at paul@wordwc.com.

Public Works has repaired water pipes along Diamond Heights Boulevard so that water is now available to supply our proposed drip irrigation system. Our plan was to install new drought-tolerant plants in June with the help of volunteers and employees of Public Works. For information, please contact Matalucci at the above email address, or go to the website, dhbmedian.wordpress.com.

During the summer and fall, fire danger increases. Resilient Diamond Heights (RDH) is again working to reduce the possibility of a large fire in a neighborhood park from reaching nearby homes on a windy day. RDH is grateful that Supervisor Rafael Mandelman convened a meeting on fire mitigation in our neighborhood parks last fall. Based on feedback from the meeting, RDH developed reporting instructions to reduce fire risk. RDH is requesting that people who frequent or live near one of our five neighborhood parks promptly report fires.

RDH recommends the following:
• Call 911 right away if you see a fire in a park, in or out of a firepit. According to the Recreation and Park Department, fires in firepits in Glen Canyon Park are illegal, except for use by the Silver Tree Camp, which operates during summer months in the canyon. Rec & Park installed three signs at the Silver Tree building stating that fires are not allowed in the seven nearby firepits.
• Call 311 to report flammable park vegetation (grass that will become dry, and dead trees) growing within 30 feet of a home. Retain the tracking number and call back until the vegetation is cleared.
• If you are a homeowner, keep flammable vegetation cleared within 30 feet of your home at all times. This is required by state and local fire codes.
• If you are a renter, request permission to clear flammable vegetation within 30 feet of your rental unit or ask the building owner to do so.
• You also may report concerns about flammable vegetation around buildings and homes to the SFFD Bureau of Fire Prevention at sf-fire.org; select How do I?, then Fire Safety Concern Reporting Form. You may call the Bureau at 415-558-3303.
• Call 911 if you see someone setting off fireworks. All fireworks—even sparklers—are illegal to buy or use in San Francisco. SFPD Capt. Jack Hart, Ingleside Station’s commander, is working with officers to locate illegal fireworks and plans to have more officers ready to respond when fireworks are set off, especially in neighborhood parks.

Betsy Eddy is president of the Diamond Heights Community Association. Contact her at dhcasf@gmail.com.
Happy summer everyone! It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Glen Park Festival this year. What a fun day! Thankfully, the rains have been kind to us this year, and all is lush and green as I write this.

Before I go into the topic of water heaters, here’s your real estate market snapshot. Inventory remains painfully low, at about 700 properties for sale in San Francisco as of this writing. At that same time, there are currently only four homes for sale in Glen Park, which is way down since my last column. Between Feb. 17 and March 24, 27 properties were sold in Glen Park. Of those, 22 were single-family homes, four were condominiums/TICs and one was a multi-unit building. That’s up about 22 percent from the past three quarters.

The median sale price for a single-family home in Glen Park was $1,725,000, which is a 4.5 percent increase from the last quarter. The median list price was $1,674,000 for the quarter, which is about the same increase as the last couple of quarters.

The average overbid was around 6 percent over asking, which has been consistent for the past six months. The average days-on-market was 38, which has increased by about 50 percent in the past year.

While some homes may be staying on the market a little longer, well-priced and prepped homes that are staged are still selling in a couple of weeks. That bit of a slowdown we thought we were seeing is all but gone, in my opinion. I recently submitted two offers for buyers in two days; both homes got six or more offers and were in contract for at least 15 percent over asking. This is still a hot market!

It’s always good to see how Glen Park compares with the city as a whole, so here are the numbers for the same time period as above for all of San Francisco:

- Total number of single family homes sold in San Francisco: 614
- Median list price: $1,450,000
- Median sale price: $1,610,000
- Average days on market: 25
- Average price per square foot: $1,040

If you would like a full copy of the stats for Glen Park, or any other district in San Francisco, feel free to email me with your request at marc@opni.com and I’ll e-mail you a copy of the report.

Glen Park Real Estate: Tankless vs. Traditional

Many clients ask me about the pros and cons between tankless water heaters and traditional storage-tank water heaters. Whether you’re looking to upgrade your water heater or simply want to be well-informed when it comes time to replace it, here is some helpful information:

Traditional storage tank water heaters can hold anywhere from 30 to 80 gallons of water in a large tank and cost around $900; with installation, you are looking at $1,800–$2,000. Most traditional water heaters are constantly heating water, making them less efficient, with higher energy costs. And they’re big! Traditional tank heaters usually last between 10 and 15 years, which is about half the lifespan of a tankless unit.

You also don’t want to be the last one in the shower with a traditional tank, as you may be taking a cold shower. On the other hand, they are less expensive than tankless units and are easy to replace if that’s what you have now.

Tankless water heaters—or on-demand water heaters, as they are sometimes called—give you an endless supply of hot water whenever you need it. The heaters are about the size of a carry-on suitcase and can be installed in any convenient place inside your home or garage. They don’t store hot water, as traditional tanks do. Instead, they heat water only when you need it, so you never run out of hot water.

Tankless water heaters cost more initially, somewhere between $2,000 and $4,500. Initial installation of a tankless system can be more expensive because of the complexity of relocating the existing piping, if necessary. Replacing a worn-out system takes longer than installing a new water heater. However, they last twice as long, typically from 20 to 30 years. And they can save you as much as 40 percent on your energy bills.

It’s important to get the right tankless system for your household’s usage. If, for example, you have multiple showers or appliances being used at the same time, one person’s shower may be chilly.

Although there are more advantages to owning a tankless water heater, it ultimately comes down to which type will best accommodate the needs of your household. If you decided to get rid of your water heater, plan to upgrade to a tankless system by the time your water heater is hitting that 10-year mark. There are pros and cons to each system, but in my opinion the future is tankless.

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, marc@opni.com, or The Glen Park News, 2912 Diamond St. #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, or by phone at 415-722-4018. His website is www.altrockrealtor.com.
**Mondays**

**Always Active Senior Program**  
Every week, 9:30-10:30 a.m., St. Finn Barr Hall, 415 Edna Street  
Free senior exercise class: cardio, strength training, flexibility, and balance. Stay for coffee and snacks, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Family Storytime and Playtime**  
Every week, 4-5:30 p.m., Glen Park Library  
Books, songs, rhymes, and fun for children of all ages.

**Poetry with Open Mic**  
First and third Monday of the month, 6-7 p.m., Bird & Beckett (except July)  
Poets read, followed by open mic. See Birdbeckett.com for more details.

**Tuesdays**

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park Work Parties**  
Every week, 9 a.m. noon, Meet behind the Rec Center off Elk Street, Glen Park  
Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park's Natural Areas Program staff. To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park, or for more information about the park and volunteer activities, contact Jean Conner at (415) 584-8576.

**Wednesdays**

**Always Active Senior Program**  
Every week, 9:30-10:30 a.m., St. Finn Barr Hall, 415 Edna Street  
Free senior exercise class: cardio, strength training, flexibility, and balance. Stay for coffee and snacks, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Jazz in the Bookshop**  
Every week, 3:30-8 p.m., Bird & Beckett  
A neighborhood party every week, with live jazz. $10-$20 donation; kids free! See birdbeckett.com.

**Saturdays**

**Family Playtime**  
Every week, 10 a.m., Glen Park Library  
Every week, 7:30-10 p.m., Bird & Beckett  

**Habitat Restoration Work Parties**  
Third Saturday of the month, 9 a.m., meet at the Rec Center off Elk Street, Glen Park  
Join the Friends of Glen Canyon and SFPFDR gardeners for a monthly volunteer work party of weeding, pruning, and occasional planting. For information, please email recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org or call 415-831-6353.

**Sundays**

**Which Way West?**  
Every week, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Bird & Beckett  
A weekly concert series offering jazz, acoustic Americana, world, and classical music. $10 per adult, suggested children free. No one turned away for lack of funds! See birdbeckett.com for performers.

**Legos**  
Third Sunday of the month, 2-4 p.m., Bird & Beckett  
Get creative building with Lego. We provide all the pieces you’ll need to create, robots, castles, and more!

**Southern Boundaries of Sunnyside**  
5 p.m., Bird & Beckett Book Club  
Join local historian Amy O’Hair to hear about the neighborhood’s rough beginnings. Two miles, strenuous hike with hills. Rain or poor air quality cancels walk. Suggested donation: $10. RSVP: SunnysideHistory@gmail.com.

**Sunset Café**  
12 noon-1 p.m., St. Aidan’s Church  
Always Active Senior Program  
**Jewelry Making**  
3-4:30 p.m., Glen Park Library  
Bay Area jeweler extraordinaire Cheree Robinson teaches introductory jewelry making skills or helps you build on existing skills. All materials are provided. This class is for tweens 10-18 years old. Space is limited.

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