



# Glen Park News

## Pandemic Puts Businesses on Tightrope

**H**ow's business?  
As Glen Park settles into the surreal new era of COVID-19, merchants in the shopping district have some unexpected answers in response to the inevitable question.

by  
Gail  
Bensinger

"It's good. We're seeing lots of peo-

ple," said Eric Whittington, owner of Bird & Beckett Books & Records, who has sold lots of books by offering curbside service fronting his Chenery Street storefront, and has managed to keep the music going via live streaming instead of live audiences.

"It's been steady," said Nada Malouf of the family-run Cheese Boutique

deli, who notes that with more people working at home, the demand for carry-out sandwiches at lunchtime has increased. Meanwhile, regular customers continue to stock up on cheeses and deli meats, homemade Middle Eastern dips and salads, and specialty groceries.

"Pies," said Joe Schuver of Destination Baking. "People want comfort food,

and that means pie," he said, dropping the tantalizing hint that it was almost Blenheim apricot season.

Critter Fritters has been seeing a lot of new customers, according to Tony, the one-named manager. "A lot of people have gotten puppies." There's also been a run on hummingbird food and chicken feed, he reports—perhaps an indication of more people working from home and gazing out their windows.

"Slow," lamented Tommy Baik, at Glen Park Cleaners. People working from home in jeans and T-shirts don't need dry cleaning or wash-and-fold laundry services, he explained.

"We're doing very well," said Carrie Lee, owner of Eyedentity Vision Optometry. The business offers curbside pickup and limited in-shop services, and has managed to keep all its employees on salary thanks in part to a PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan from the federal government.

To date, apparently only one local storefront enterprise has gone permanently out of business as a result of the pandemic: Little Artistas, an art studio devoted to the youngest artists. There's a for-rent sign on the door at 667 Chenery St., and the website is disabled. The bilingual English-Spanish facility was started by Anna Calonje in September 2013, and eventually opened several other studios around the city before the pandemic shutdown in March forced them all to close. (Efforts to reach Calonje were unsuccessful.)

But others have had to adapt in various ways to the changing circumstances.

Some businesses remain open only virtually. Synced Pilates and fitGlenfit have switched to online classes. So has the Center for Creative Exploration, the art studio and teaching hub on Chenery at Miguel Street. Others, including Perch, are open cautiously.



Marcello Waqued serves coffee as his mother, Heloisa Castro, looks on at the family-run Pebbles Cafe. Photo by Gail Bensinger

## A Senseless Death: Glen Park Mourns

**G**len Park is still reeling from the death of 94-year-old Leo Hainzl, who was walking his dog Rip on Elk Street at the edge of Glen Canyon Park shortly after 8 a.m. on Memorial Day, when he was accosted and knocked to the ground, striking his head. He was rushed to a hospital, where he died.

by  
Heather  
World

Police officers responded immediately. Within minutes they arrested a homeless man, 53-year-old Peter Rocha, who was jailed on a charge of murder. In his "News from City Hall" column on Page 2, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman sheds more light on Rocha's circumstances.

### 53 Years on Sussex Street

Leo Hainzl's friendly face was seen

throughout the neighborhood daily. One after another, as they heard the news, neighbors recounted stories of Hainzl who, undaunted by age, walked miles every day, repaired his own home, and lent a hand to others.

"This was a man who felt like he was cheating himself and his dog if he walked six miles a day instead of seven or eight," said neighbor Stephany

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# GLEN PARK NEWS

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## ◆ GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION ◆

COVID-19 has changed our world like nothing we've seen in our lifetimes. Here in Glen Park we're working to accommodate the new normal by limiting customers in shops, ordering take-out instead of sitting down at our favorite restaurants and cafes, and staying home as much as possible. We're wearing masks and keeping six feet away from others.

The City of San Francisco is helping us keep our social distance with our new Slow Street: Chenery between Brompton and Elk. SFMTA introduced Slow Streets in early May to give pedestrians and cyclists more room to socially distance. Temporary partial barriers and signage restrict vehicle traffic to local users, encouraging through traffic to choose another route.

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman's office reached out to the Glen Park Association in mid-May to let us know that Chenery near Glen Canyon Park had been nominated for inclusion in the next phase of the program. After consultation with the GPA and Glen Park Merchants' Association, the supervisor's staff recommended that the Slow Street begin at Brompton to preserve access to parking near our commercial district.

The barriers were installed on Friday, May 29. On Sunday, May 31, my daughter and I went for a scoot. We spent about 90 minutes on the 700 block and saw walkers, joggers and cyclists of all ages. "It's pretty cool that they closed the street," said Matt Bickford of Twin Peaks, who had just walked the length of Glen Canyon Park with his partner Samantha Siebert,

as they made their way to Canyon Market.

The Slow Street isn't entirely without detractors. A commenter on the Glen Park Association blog was concerned about parking when visiting Glen Park businesses, and another worried about safety. But on that Sunday afternoon, neighbors enjoying the extra space were enthusiastic. Philip Zeyliger and Miranda Dietz of Diamond Street took a break from their afternoon walk while their two sons joined my daughter zooming around on scooters (6 feet apart, of course). "We all loved all the open space for scootering and strolling," said Philip.

To learn more about Slow Streets, visit [SFMTA.com/SlowStreets](https://www.sfmta.com/SlowStreets). ◆

*Hilary Schiraldi is vice president of the Glen Park Association.*

## ◆ NEWS FROM CITY HALL ◆

San Franciscans have now been sheltering in place since March 17. Although most of us have adapted to the changed realities of daily life with remarkable patience, the disruption to the local and global economies has been astonishing, and frankly frightening. At the same time, the data



shows that the Bay Area has flattened the curve, avoiding so far the devastating public health impacts seen in Europe and other parts of the United States. In this regard, San Francisco has done well so far, and we can be proud of that. We are in this together, Glen Park.

**Public Health Information:** To receive the latest COVID-19 information from SF public health officials via text message, text "COVID19SF" to 888-777 or visit [www.sfdph.org](https://www.sfdph.org) for up-to-date information. You can also visit [www.sf.gov/coronavirus](https://www.sf.gov/coronavirus) for additional COVID-19 response information. San Francisco also has a COVID-19 data tracker which is updated daily with key metrics and can be found at [data.sfgov.org/covid-19](https://data.sfgov.org/covid-19).

**Remembering Leo Hainzl:** The tragic killing of Glen Park resident Leo Hainzl has devastated neighbors and

shocked the entire city. He is remembered for his generosity, always lending a hand to help his neighbors, and devoting himself to his dog Rip, who he would walk many miles a day.

His murder is all the more tragic because it seems like it was preventable. His accused assailant is well-known to neighbors and merchants who had called the police repeatedly about his aggressive, threatening, irrational and paranoid behavior over the past year. Our collective failure to find and fund humane and effective ways to compel people into care when they need it but do not know it, and regularly threaten the physical safety of their neighbors, is shameful and enraging. I will continue to prioritize investments in mental health interventions for the unhoused in the upcoming budget process.

**Economic Recovery:** COVID-19, and the necessary public health response, have devastated San Francisco's economy. Tens of thousands of people are out of work and many small businesses have been shut down for months, with others just beginning to open in June with severe operational restrictions. City, state and federal resources have been put in place to try and mitigate the harm to workers and businesses, but we know that much more is needed.

The mayor and Board President Norman Yee have formed an Economic Recovery Task Force to mitigate the economic hardships that are resulting from COVID-19 and advance proposals to allow the city to emerge from

this crisis stronger than before. I was honored to be asked to join the task force by President Yee and look forward to working with my colleagues on policies and reforms to support small businesses, make City departments more efficient and user-friendly and ensure an environmentally sustainable future for our city.

Outdoor dining and shopping should be a centerpiece of our efforts this summer to support these businesses, which is why I worked with the mayor to launch the Shared Spaces program. Begun in June, Shared Spaces allowed businesses to quickly expand onto the sidewalk, parking spaces, full or partial streets, or other nearby public spaces like parks and plazas for dining, pick-up/to-go or other retail activity. I will continue to work with merchants, the community, and City departments to make this experiment a success.

**D8 Newsletter and Weekly Zoomside Chats:** To receive regular updates from my office, sign up for the District 8 Newsletter by emailing [mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org). Also, join us every Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. for a weekly Zoomside Chat on Zoom and Facebook Live. My staff and I, along with a special guest, discuss the week's news and COVID-19 updates, and answer your questions and concerns. Email [mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org) for more information. ◆

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



## ❖ CHECK IT OUT AT THE LIBRARY ❖

**G**reetings from the Glen Park Branch Library. We miss you!

Like so many of you, we are adjusting to the new normal and longing for the contact and community we shared before the coronavirus arrived in our city.

During the library's closure, we have pivoted our programming and services so that you can enjoy our offerings from home via a newly designed Virtual Library, accessible from our homepage. We encourage you to continue to take advantage of eResources—thousands of eBooks, streaming movies, audiobooks and more—while we slowly dip our toe into a phased reopening, which we anticipate will take place over an extended period of time and will depend on guidelines issued by the Department of Public Health.

Even though there are still some unknowns related to future operations, we do have some updates to share with you about ways you can engage with us this summer. First, we are thrilled to inform you that our award-winning learning program, Summer Stride, is back! We've partnered for the seventh year with San Francisco publisher Chronicle Books to commission original art from Alison Farrell, inspired by her 2019 book, *The Hike*, her previous

years living in the Outer Sunset and love of the natural world. This was the perfect pairing for our collaboration with SF Recreation & Parks, Parks Alliance, National Park Service, Presidio Trust, Parks Conservancy and Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

To celebrate Golden Gate Park's 150th anniversary, Farrell designed an Activity Tracker as a walk, run or cycle adventure through the park's treasures. The Activity Tracker was sent to every SFUSD student, along with book recommendations for every grade level. If you didn't get yours, don't worry. You can access one by downloading our "Summer Stride Guide," which includes all kinds of fun activities designed to keep young minds active and engaged.

New this year, participants can also track their reading and learning time on Beanstack, an online platform that can be accessed from a computer or mobile device. Register your family or just yourself. Track 20 minutes a day—you can earn badges and the coveted 2020 Summer Stride tote featuring Farrell's original art.

And for something totally different, the San Francisco History Center is actively archiving all types of materials, in multiple formats, to build a Community Time Capsule that doc-

uments and preserves the collective experiences of city residents during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

What's happening to you? Your neighborhood? Your schools, your workplaces? Put on your archivist's hat and capture what is different in our world today, what we miss, what we've created to reflect our new reality and how we are communicating and living now. With your help, SFPL will build a collection that reflects the many ways San Franciscans were impacted by, and responded to, this public health crisis.

A few other things to note during this time. In the event that we remain closed, your holds have been extended until July 1 and your materials are not due back until Aug. 1. Note that these dates may be adjusted depending on the City's ongoing response to COVID-19.

While we are apart, please stay connected with us by visiting our website, [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org), or by following us on Facebook (@sfpl.org), Twitter (@sfpubliclibrary) and Instagram (@sfpubliclibrary). ❖

*Kate Patterson is director of communications of the San Francisco Public Library system. Michelle Waddy, the manager of the Glen Park branch, has been reassigned for the duration of the COVID-19 closure.*



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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.



# Talking Turkey: A Gobbler in Glen Park

Could there be turkeys on Turquoise?

On May 23, Glen Park Association President Scott Stawicki was walking his dog on Amber Street near the top of Glen Canyon Park when he encountered something he'd never expected to see in San Francisco—a wild turkey.

by

Murray

Schneider

“We saw it walking from the canyon, then right down the middle of Amber where it crosses Turquoise,” Stawicki told the *Glen Park News*. “We assumed it was a hen or a juvenile that was separated from its flock. It proceeded by us and up the hill to the Police Academy.”

Wildlife has been returning to San Francisco for years now. First bald eagles, then coyotes, then peregrine falcons.

And now turkeys, although at least one of them has been making her abode here for at least a year, verified by March 2019 footage from a homeowner's Ring security camera. “A wild turkey walked up to our front door on Mangels Avenue. It's captured on my Ring,” said Jimmy Tieu.

This well-traveled hen has been spotted all over the neighborhood. She was sighted pecking along a Glen Canyon Park trail north of Silver Tree Day Camp in May 2020.

“I took several photographs of it, and while I did, a woman told me she'd seen the same turkey on the Greenway and in the village,” emailed Mary Szczepanik, who lives on Chenery Street. “After three minutes it disappeared into the shrubbery along the creek.”

As arresting a sight as a turkey strutting down the street might be, they can become a nuisance, particularly in urban settings. Recently the *Chronicle* reported on an Oakland rogue tom turkey “pecking, clawing and stealing food,” even physically assaulting a woman with its talons.

In Terra Linda near San Rafael, a resident shared with the *Glen Park News* a home video that captured gobblers wobbling up her steep suburban street. “Our Marin County turkeys are much less hostile than those in Oakland,” the suburban woman said. “They're the laid-back variety; they just strut and poop!”

Though the Glen Park hen has been



A wild turkey walks in Glen Canyon.

Photos by Mary Szczepanik

around for at least a year, she appears to be the only sighting within historic memory.

“I've lived in my house for 57 years,” Richard Craib told the *Glen Park News*, “and I've seen my share of critters, but never a turkey.”

Craib's Turquoise Way house abuts the top of Glen Canyon Park and for more than half a century he's experienced urban wildlife. Coyotes, skunks, raccoons, even a family of white-breasted nuthatches that two years ago burrowed into his living room Douglas fir ceiling beams.

“I've heard lots of owl hoots,” but no turkeys, said Craib, who has built and placed barn owl houses along trails in the Glen Canyon.

Evelyn Rose, who lives down the hill from Craib and who is director of the Glen Park Neighborhood History Project, says local turkey encounters are few and far between.

“I've done some research, and other than the limited sightings in 2017 and possibly in 2010 in Glen Canyon,” she said, “I can't find any mention of turkeys having been seen before.”

Whether we'll next have flocks of turkeys isn't known, but Stawicki says they can be lovely.

“We see wild turkey all the time in Marin and they're quite beautiful,” he said of San Geronimo males, which court harems of hens by strutting, puffing into colorful and feathery balls, spreading their tails and dragging their wings.

Glen Canyon is ideal habitat for such reproductive rituals. Its California oaks offer sustenance, and turkeys have been

known to roost high up in oak limbs where their garrulous gobbling can stir even the most somnolent slumber.

Wild turkeys are found in 49 states, and can live from three to five years. Glen Park, Diamond Heights and the Sunnyside would seem to be ideal habitat. If acorns run out, there are two canyon blackberry varieties—Californian and Himalayan. To supplement their fruit diet, there are snails and beetles, even lizards, snakes and small frogs.

We can leave it to historian Rose to offer a bit of historical perspective:

Turkeys aren't native to California. They were first introduced by the Fish and Game Commission in 1912, by way of Livermore, for hunting, but the original ones didn't serve that purpose well. “Subsequently, the Department of Fish and Game introduced a heartier turkey that hailed from Texas,” she said. “These birds are seen today in the wilds, suburbia and urban settings.”

Turkeys are popular game, second after deer. But it's illegal to unload a round of live ammunition in San Francisco, so any that find their way here are safe.

As for our sole Glen Park hen turkey, please don't feed her should you run across her. Turkeys are attracted to backyard dog and cat food, one reason for their annoying flock size in suburban areas. Some neighborhoods, like Terra Linda, can be overwhelmed by them, resulting in damage to house shingles, fences and decks.

Scott Gardner, a California Department of Fish and Game official, is unambiguously clear: “If we feed turkeys, they become like stray cats.” ♦



## ✿ DIGGING THE DIRT ✿

I recently spent nearly 60 days of COVID-19 lockdown in a tiny French village, trapped there by the decision of European governments to shut all borders and impose strict shelter-in-place restrictions. This was

not a hardship! There I discovered that the villagers were paid by the local commune and the French government to beautify their village and turn it into a “ville fleurie.” As a result, the old stone walls were covered with climbing roses set behind beds of tall iris and perennials. I recognized most of the plants—they were same the perennials, succulents and shrubs that also thrive here in Glen Park.

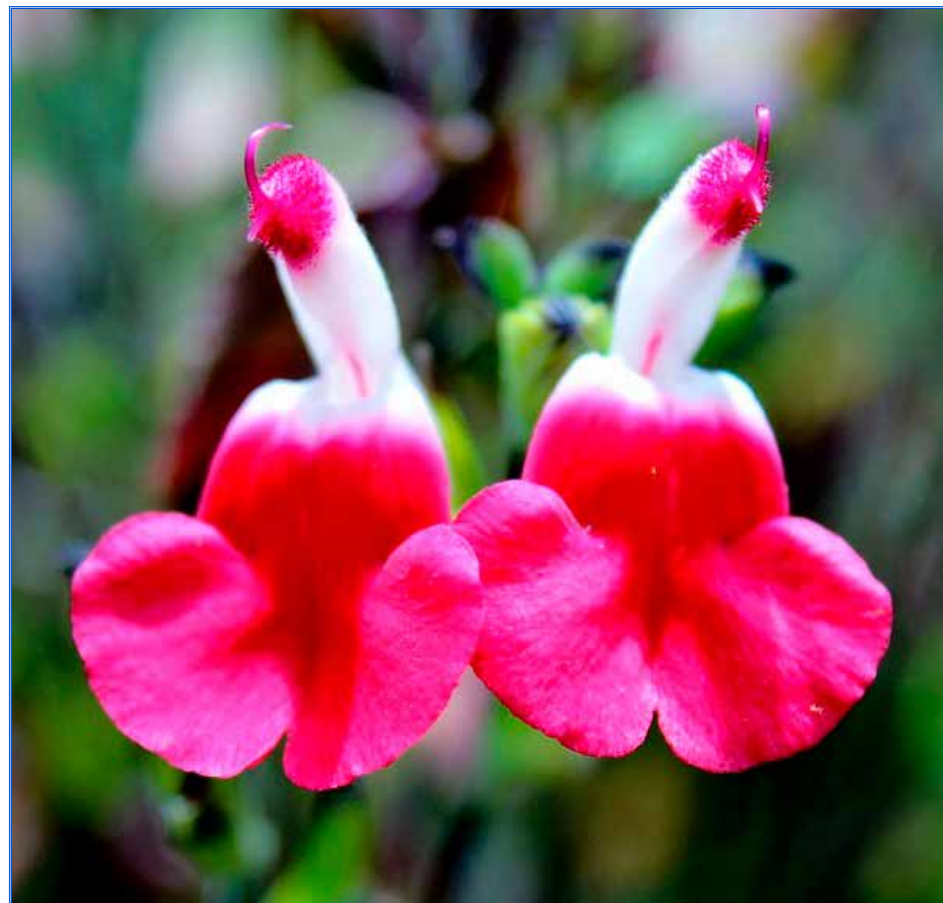
One plant family stood out: the **sages** or **salvias**, in the mint family of plants. They were everywhere. They inspired me to list below some of the Glen Park Garden Club’s favorite salvias. But first, here’s why you should get these wonderful plants into your garden now.

Salvias are a knockout for the gardener. Their leaves have a pungent, pleasant scent. Some have scented flowers. The showy, dense two-lipped tubular flowers are held high above the leaves on long stalks. The blooms have a wide range of vivid, saturated, deep colors and attract hummingbirds, bees and other pollinators. They bloom forever, often early spring through fall. They are hardy, mainly evergreen, and like the sun and regular water. Many are drought-tolerant once mature. Some varieties will take shade. They do well in containers. They like rich, well-drained soil, but are tolerant of less-than-perfect conditions. They do not need much care—just cut them back after bloom time to encourage more flowers next year and to control the shape.

Annie’s Annuals website (see below) has a good instructional video of Annie ruthlessly slashing back her salvias in the fall. It’s frightening but helpful.

**Salvia officinalis:** This small plant has aromatic, gray-green leaves that can be used fresh or dried for culinary use. Excellent in containers near the kitchen.

**Lipstick Salvia:** *Salvia greggii* “Lipstick.” A very sweet favorite around here. About 30 inches tall, they bloom from late spring to early fall, with brilliant lipstick-pink flowers; hardy, drought tolerant. Look for other “greggii” varieties—they are quite lovely and robust.



Lipstick Salvia.

Photo courtesy of Treviral/Creative Commons

**Salvia microphylla “Hot Lips”:** As above, but there’s a flash of dramatic white on each pink bloom. Compact, heavy bloomer, very showy.

**Pineapple Sage:** *Salvia elegans*. A knockout with lime-yellow leaves, bright pink slender blooms and a strong pineapple scent. Can develop into a large shrub.

**Salvia “Amistad”:** Wow! Currently

very popular, with good reason. The tall plants are very floriferous and have big striking purple flowers with black calyxes. Pale green leaves. Sun/shade.

**Cleveland Sage:** *Salvia clevelandii* “Winifred Gillman.” Beautiful violet-blue flowers grow in whorls around tall stems. This large native plant with heavily scented gray foliage will fill a garden on a warm day. Drought toler-

ant, needs sun but little care.

**Hummingbird Sage, Salvia spathacea:** Deep pink-maroon flowers grow on stalks up to 3 feet, with long, pale fuzzy green leaves. Striking and tough; fragrant. Likes light shade.

**Nectar Blue Salvia:** For those who love blue, its dark blue flowers are long-blooming and drought tolerant, with small pale green leaves.

**Salvia x jamensis “Nachtvlinder”:** This small, bushy beauty has velvety plum-colored blooms and neat pale green aromatic leaves. Thrives in containers.

**Salvia bullulata “Pale Form”:** Thick green quilted leaves surround unusual white-tipped turquoise flowers.

Here are some resources for more education:

- *The New Book of Salvias: Sages for Every Garden*, by Betsy Clebsch, 2008. A local author lists 150 salvias suitable for home gardens.
- [www.anniesannuals.com](http://www.anniesannuals.com): This nursery website lists about 40 salvias with growing instructions. Order online or visit the Richmond nursery, which is observing social distancing regulations.
- [www.laspilitas.com](http://www.laspilitas.com): A nursery website with many native California sages listed. Order online. ♦

*Kay Hamilton Esty is the Glen Park Garden Club columnist. For more information about the garden club, contact her at [kay.esty@gmail.com](mailto:kay.esty@gmail.com).*



Salvia Amistad.

Photo courtesy of Fred Ortlip/Creative Commons



# Glen Park Association Gets COVID-19 Update

The spring meeting of the Glen Park Association, on April 30, was an experiment in virtual communication—it took place in the popular online venue, Zoom.

For the organizers, no booking a room in the Rec Center, no setting up chairs, no laying out the cookies and water, no shaking hands with the guest speakers. For the attendees, no checking in to find that your membership has expired, no beforehand schmoozing with the neighbors, no jockeying for a front- or back-row seat.

Anticipating the possibility of technical issues, the first time around, the GPA kept the agenda light. But that didn't mean the topics were. Supervisor Rafael Mandelman was the only speaker, catching people up on the City's activities and priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and fielding questions and comments from the audience.

## Some highlights:

- An early declaration of a state of emergency at the end of February allowed the City to get moving with pandemic preparations. The Department of Public Health issued orders every few days. Shelter-in-place was ordered on March 16, considerably earlier than in other localities. Since then, the order has been extended with modest modifications. We've managed to keep hospitals under capacity and not overwhelmed.
- Management of the pandemic was moved to the Emergency Operations Center, a vast building with several hundred employees who have been maintaining social distancing. They're handling major issues surrounding homelessness and shelter-in-place communications to the public. The Bay Area counties are coordinating their activities.
- "There's not a moment to pursue a ton of legislation," says Mandelman. "City government is completely preoccupied with responding to the crisis. Anything not related goes on the back burner."
- Small businesses are devastated. The City is trying to help with resources through the Office of Workforce Development. Nonprofits are under extreme stress—there's no active fundraising, no Pride parade, and HIV research is going online, among many examples.

- Tents are springing up. There's no social distancing and pedestrians often have no place to walk safely. In a turnaround, the City is trying to manage the proliferation of tents rather than dismantling them. Glen Park doesn't have this problem, but it's acute in the Tenderloin, SOMA, the Mission and the Castro/Upper Market neighborhoods. Unfortunately, says Mandelman, we're a long way from being able to provide a hotel room for every unhoused person. The Board of Supervisors is working with the mayor and school board to sanction tent encampments that will be managed with spacial distance, meals, 24/7 staff, bathrooms and handwashing stations.
- The City budgeting process is "completely topsy turvy." Mandelman is on the budget committee. Normally we'd have a budget by early July, but now there's no way that will happen. With the local economy shutting down for a quarter, high priorities for the vulnerable such as behavioral health, substance abuse and other services, are yet to be determined.
- Transit curtailment is severely impacting essential workers. All but 17 Muni bus lines have been eliminated. The SFMTA has developed the Essential Trip Card program, which provides subsidized taxi fares for the elderly and disabled for essential trips to the grocery store, doctor's office, pharmacy and the like.
- Small businesses need relief. Mandelman is a member of the Economic Recovery Task Force. Restaurants, arts organizations, nightlife venues, etc. need the City to be more supportive. We can't go back to the way things were pre-pandemic.

## Q and A:

- How can we help as neighbors? The mayor has set up a fund, "Give2SF," which has raised \$10 million to disperse to institutions and individuals. Shanti has partnered with the City to give support to seniors. Donate to or volunteer at the SF Food Bank, Project Open Hand.

- Will the City support child care? This is a huge priority; however, the \$100 million per year budget item approved by the electorate is still in litigation.
- What about K-12 and City College? The coffers are bare. Even prior to the pandemic, SFUSD asked the City for tens of millions of dollars to get through next year. Mandelman cares deeply about City College, as he's a former president of the board of trustees. CCSF is close to spending into its 5 percent reserve and is also requesting transfer of money from the general fund. Classes have been online during the spring and will continue to be for the summer.
- What's the status of the stalled traffic and pedestrian safety projects? SFMTA is independent of the Board of Supervisors. On the whole, that's a good thing, because it would be a mess to have to vote on everything. But when it comes to influence, the supervisors can only try to cajole an agency that doesn't report to them.
- The Elk/Sussex crosswalk has \$400,000 allocated. Design was completed in February and a con-

tractor was engaged in March. Then it went on hold due to shelter-in-place. It will be completed five or six months after SIP is lifted.

- Traffic-calming and signage of Chenery and Lippard Streets has been approved, but nothing has happened yet.
- The issue of commercial vehicles on prohibited streets has been logged in for review. Mandelman will follow up on these.
- If residential parking isn't being enforced, can the fee be rolled over till next year? Mandelman will pass this on to SFMTA.

## Major takeaway:

All parts of the City government are completely overloaded. Forty percent of the workforce is missing on any given day.

The supervisor had a closing thought. "It's weird to spend the whole day in meetings like this and not actually see a single person." We're all looking forward to a time when once again that would be inconceivable. ♦

*Bonnee Waldstein is communications secretary of the Glen Park Association*



The intersection of Elk and Sussex streets, where construction of a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon is scheduled to begin later this year. Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

## ❖ (HI)STORIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ❖

**R**ather abruptly in 2020, we find ourselves within historic but turbulent times. It started with the public health order in early March to shelter in place—a mandate strongly supported by scientific evidence—to help protect ourselves and others from the debilitating and potentially deadly effects of the COVID-19 virus.

For a few nights in early June, we also found ourselves under curfew because of violence that was overtaking the voices of peaceful protesters demanding an end to racism, this after yet another despicable act in an endless list of despicable acts perpetrated nationwide for centuries against African Americans. All this while Glen Park still reels from the news of a senseless, tragic and seemingly preventable death of an elderly neighbor who had been a fixture in the neighborhood for 60 years.

Some years ago, I came across an ephemera dealer in Georgia who was offering a booklet that hawked “Dr. Miles’ Nervine.” The booklet had been distributed by the Glen Park Pharmacy, 2798 Diamond St., San Francisco, likely in the 1930s. Dr. Miles’ booklet informed readers that, “Generally

speaking, the inhabitants of the jungle are not nervous. It’s the complicated life of civilization that develops ‘Nerves.’” These words still seem to ring true today.

Proclaiming it could “quiet the nerves” and permit “refreshing sleep,” this over-the-counter patent medicine contained bromide, which acts as a sedative only at doses just shy of toxic. Surprisingly, Nervine was available as late as the 1960s, and bromide is no longer allowed in over-the-counter drugs in the United States. However, it is still used as a gasoline additive and in pesticides and disinfectants. (Of course, none of these should be ingested, just to reiterate the multitude of warnings issued after a presidential musing a this spring.)

Dr. Franklin Miles would go on to establish Miles Laboratories, which would become famous for Alka-Seltzer. The proprietor of the Glen Park Pharmacy, at the intersection of Diamond and Chenery streets, was pharmacist Walter Janssen. He had taken over the site of the former Dissmeyer Saloon in the 1920s and remained Glen Park’s local druggist for nearly half a century. Tyger’s Coffee Shop is located at the address today.

Once the quarantine began, we hunkered down at home. Our anxiety levels began to rise as we tried to come to grips with the many facets of our new reality. So, just what is our modern-day equivalent for Nervine?

As packets of sourdough starter were posted on San Francisco utility poles, and sugar and flour became about as rare as toilet paper, it appears that our drugless form of anxiety management is baking. The process of baking appears to have a calming effect on our senses, helps keep us occupied and distracted, and evokes sugary delight once consumed.

The village of Glen Park has had several bakeries over the years, most recently Destination Bakery at Chenery and Castro streets. In the 1940s, Chenery Hill Bakery

was located at the site of today’s Tekka House Restaurant.

It appears that one of Glen Park’s first bakeries was named, not surprisingly, the Glen Park Bakery. Located at what is today the Cheese Boutique at 660 Chenery St. from 1908 to 1916, its proprietors were Leonard Loeffler and his wife Elizabeth.

Leonard Loeffler was born in Germany in 1879, and it is not clear when he arrived in the United States. According to a descendant of Elizabeth, known as Lizzie, she was born in Pennsylvania, likely Philadelphia, in 1884 (though three decades of census records cite New Jersey as her place of birth). She was the daughter of Florian Stoesser, a native of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, who emigrated to the United States in 1883. He eventually moved to San Francisco and founded the Central Iron Works, specializing in steel buildings, fire escapes, and elevators.

When the works on Florida Street were destroyed by fire in late 1906, the business was dissolved. A Stoesser family historian noted in 1979, “My Aunt Liz was married to an old-country German as they used to refer to them. His name was Leonard and ... he actually was a baker, and what a good one! I remember when we used to go to Aunt Liz’s bakery and she would say, Freddie, how about a cream puff? As I remember, about 3 to 4 inches diameter and just full of real pastry cream (unadulterated), the good old days.”

Florian’s sister (Lizzie’s aunt) was visiting the Stoessers in San Francisco when the Great Earthquake struck on April 18, 1906. They observed all the people who were living in the streets in front of their homes because either they were afraid to return inside or their building was too damaged. Florian’s sister later recalled she “had never been so scared in her life and both she and her mother couldn’t wait to get back” to the East Coast. The family back home was so concerned for their safety that they sent a telegram to Florian asking if they were all safe.



Elizabeth (“Lizzie”) Stoesser Loeffler.

Image courtesy of Gary Endlein

After 1916, the Glen Park Bakery was no more. The Loefflers had relocated to Guerrero Street, where Leonard remained employed as a baker. According to an article in the *San Francisco Examiner* on Oct. 2, 1918, and just as the Spanish Flu epidemic was starting to get a stranglehold on San Francisco, Leonard was arrested by U.S. Marshals on a charge of “hoarding flour and sugar.” In bakers’ terms, “proof” that history does repeat itself! ❖

*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](http://www.GlenParkHistory.org). The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project is offering intermittent virtual programs during shelter-in-place. Join the mailing list: [GlenParkHistory@gmail.com](mailto:GlenParkHistory@gmail.com)*



The telegram sent by the Stoesser family to Florian Stoesser of Central Iron Works in San Francisco on April 24, 1906, inquiring about the well-being of the Stoessers following the earthquake.

Image courtesy of Gary Endle. Thanks to Tiffany Farr for the correction.



Elizabeth Loeffler and daughter Amelia in front of the Glen Park Bakery and Confectionery. Today it is the site of 676-678 Chenery that is occupied by Tekka House.

Courtesy of the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library



# Pandemic Puts Businesses on Tightrope

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Many have changed their hours, opening later or closing earlier.

Hair salons and nail spas were preparing to open on June 29, but City health officials paused their reopening due to a recent rise in COVID cases.

Eating establishments switched to carry-out only when the City ordered dine-in places to shutter. Some, such as Bello Coffee & Tea, Cuppa frozen yogurt, Win Garden Chinese food and Viking Sandwiches closed for a while, then reopened on a take-away basis. Gialina also reopened, with a modified menu, for carry-out pizza. At the other end of Glen Park, at 30th and Church streets, co-owner Lorella Degan of La Ciccina, said takeout demand for their Sardinian menu (and bottles from their wine list) had been good, but that they had needed to furlough their staff.

La Cornetta had been closed temporarily for remodeling when the pandemic struck, but carried on with that work. Now the familiar line for tacos and burritos stretches down the sidewalk instead of winding through the cafe's interior.

Other favorites—Tekka sushi, One Waan Thai, Pebbles Cafe—switched to carry-out only without closing. Manhal Jweinat closed all three of his restaurants—Manzoni (Italian), Le P'tit Laurent (French) and Higher Grounds (coffee and crepes)—a couple of days before the City acted officially. He has been using the interim to do interior work on both Le P'tit Laurent and Higher Grounds, and said he plans



Glen Park Cleaners owner Tommy Baik says business has been off because people are working at home. Photos by Gail Bensinger

to reopen all three in time, starting with Manzoni, but he didn't have a definite date.

Interior work has been on the minds of residents, as well as restaurateurs. Joseph Tingen, manager of Glen Park Hardware, said sales have been steady overall, but have risen noticeably for home-repair items, notably painting supplies. People stuck at home are looking for projects, he said: "No one has an excuse to put off repairs right now."

Richard Tarlov, who with his wife, Janet, owns Canyon Market, said the

number of people coming into the store has dropped significantly. The number of shoppers at any one time has been strictly limited, customers are offered hand sanitizer on entry, and all carts and baskets are wiped down between use.

People waiting in line to enter stand 6 feet apart in a line down Diamond Street. For those who don't want to, or cannot, shop in person, curbside pickup and home delivery are available. And the first hour of business, from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., is limited to seniors-only shoppers, complete with discount.

For the Tarlovs, employee safety is paramount. The store is by far Glen Park's largest private employer, but they have not had to lay off or furlough any employees, although five people in vulnerable groups are self-isolating and a couple of others quit of their own accord. The Tarlovs finally managed to get a PPP loan, which he called "incredibly helpful but enormously complicated to manage."

At first, Richard noted, customers were loading up on staples, as well as groceries, but now that the panic-buying stage is over, they're buying normal amounts commensurate with the uptick in home cooking. And people are drinking more, he noted. Cocktail makings, such as bitters and vermouth, are especially popular. "Everyone is mixing cocktails," he said.

Supplies, especially of things in high demand, have proved to be erratic. With home baking proving popular,

Canyon Market has diverted some of the in-house bakery's supplies, such as yeast, and repackaged them in small containers for customers. They have done their best to provide equivalent substitutes for temporarily unobtainable groceries. "Shoppers by and large have been forgiving and patient with all of this," he noted.

Nada Malouf reported that Cheese Boutique has had similar supply-chain issues. They have occasionally had to find temporary substitutes for favorite cheeses and deli meats. But their house-made hummus, baba ghanoush, tabbouleh and the like are still popular.

She, too, expressed gratefulness for the tight-knit loyalty of Glen Park. "We're very thankful to the neighbors for supporting us."

Similar thoughts were supplied by Eyedentity's Carrie Lee and Marcello Waqued, owner of Pebbles Cafe. Richard Tarlov expressed gratitude to Canyon's customers for contributing in cash or electronically to tip jars and the employee assistance fund they set up.

Other changes—notably the steep falloff of riders using BART or the various Muni buses that converge on the neighborhood—also have affected businesses, such as Glen Park Market across Diamond Street from the BART station, where business is down 50 percent. Diagonally across that busy intersection, the Dignity Health drop-in clinic closed temporarily and is gradually reopening.

Most businesses that remain open have adjusted their schedules, closing one or more days a week and/or shortening their hours, even as restrictions ease.

The continued closure of the Glen Park branch library has sent readers elsewhere. Eric Whittington says a limited number of browsers are now being let in to roam through his shelves, rather than having to order titles in advance and getting the handover via his doorway or personalized delivery.

The book and poetry readings and regular live jazz concerts are by streaming only. For audiences, he noted, "Singing and playing a horn aren't safe yet."

At the beginning of the lockdown, cookbooks and gardening books sold well. Now, people are buying both fiction and nonfiction, including topics associated with Black Lives Matter and current politics, he said. "People in Glen Park have definitely turned their backs on Amazon." ♦



Michael Malouf (left) works with his father Rick Malouf at the Cheese Boutique.



## ❖ NEWS FROM DIAMOND HEIGHTS ❖

**D**iamond Heights has experienced an unexpected calm during the health and economic emergency due to COVID-19. There is less traffic noise. People remark that birdsong is more frequent. Many people are out walking, most with masks, and passing people with a wide clearance.

This summer, though, the rumble of traffic is picking up. Construction noise is everywhere and the work on Christopher Park renovations has begun again.

Our neighborhood food pantries are even more important now that many people are struggling to afford groceries. Shepherd of the Hills/New Life Lutheran Church and St. Aidan's Church continue their weekly service, using younger volunteers. Essential services including Safeway, Walgreens, Jensen's Mail & Copy, Creighton's Bakery & Café, Harbor Villa Restaurant Take Out, Heavenly Cafe Take Out, Diamond Heights Post Office, Bank of America and Seven Hills Veterinary Hospital have been open since the beginning of shelter-in-place.

Resilient Diamond Heights has introduced the Neighbor Assistance Program, in which people who volunteer to check in on the well-being of neighbors are matched with those who may need referrals to assistance. This is especially important for people who are more vulnerable because of disabilities or advanced age and who live

alone. The creation of block email and phone lists will help people get to know neighbors and will develop connections before our next emergency, such as an earthquake or wildfire. To ensure safety and privacy, block coordinators will work only with a small area, either a single city block or a single building of a housing development. For details on becoming a block/building coordinator, please contact Betsy Eddy at the email address below.

A big thank you to Public Works for its care of our median islands along Diamond Heights Boulevard in May, including mowing the long island from Gold Mine Drive to Diamond Street. In some places the grass had grown 6 feet high. In a huge effort, Public Works staff hand-weeded the three median islands in front of the Diamond Heights Shopping Center in order to preserve the many new plants installed by the Diamond Heights Boulevard Median Project volunteers and Public Works staff in November 2019.

Early in the shelter-in-place order, an inspired, caring individual created a collage of red hearts on a hilly slope along Diamond Heights Boulevard. The artist painted red rocks to form the largest heart, then arranged red hearts on wooden boards above the main one: "Spread love wherever you go."—Mother Teresa ❖

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



The hearts along Diamond Heights Boulevard.

Photo by Betsy Eddy

## ❖ GLEN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ❖

**G**reetings from Glen Park Elementary School. We hope everyone is staying safe and well during these trying times.

Glen Park School closed on March 13, a few days ahead of the rest of San Francisco Unified School District schools because of concerns with ill students. Thankfully, everyone tested negative for COVID-19.

Throughout the pandemic crisis, Principal Liz Zarr and the Glen Park faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that students were able to continue learning while sheltering in place. Teachers revised their strategies and learned new technologies for delivering instruction, and the school and SFUSD worked to make sure all students had access to the resources they needed—from laptop computers to food and other supports.

"The way our school community came together to support our students and one another during this unprecedented time has been so heartening, and I'll be working with families and staff over the summer months to plan our reopening and continue to find ways to uplift all voices in the Glen Park School community," Zarr said.

In late March, the Parent-Teacher Organization created an Emergency Relief Fund to assist families in our community who lost income as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The Fund has raised more than \$13,000 to date and is continuing to help families in need.

And the Big Blue family continued the giving throughout the spring.

On April 25, we held a virtual version of the Annual Glen Park PTO Auction, one of the largest fundraising events of the year. Dozens of families enjoyed an evening of online socializing, live music and a DJ and, of

course, giving. The event surpassed its \$50,000 goal to support programs backed by the PTO, including a Fund a Need benefitting our Wellness Center. The Wellness Center provides a wealth of social and emotional supports available to all students, including mentoring and anti-bullying programs, facilitating restorative practices, providing students a quiet, safe space when they need it, and more.

We also reimaged the annual Rainbow Runathon, turning it into the Rainbow ReCreate-athon, with four days of physically distanced projects. The activities included a readathon; a day of writing letters to patients at Laguna Honda Hospital; a day of making, creating and experimenting; and a day of movement.

The last day of the school year was Tuesday, June 2. To honor our fifth graders, who will be moving on to middle school next year, we held an

online commencement ceremony to congratulate them and wish them happiness and success as they begin their next adventure. Parent and teacher volunteers delivered certificates of completion and customized Glen-Park-School-insignia cupcakes (courtesy of Noe Valley Bakery) to each of the graduates.

And for incoming Glen Park families, we held information sessions with Principal Zarr in early April. There are tentative plans for PTO-led playdates this summer, but specific dates are still being worked out. If you haven't already heard from a school or PTO representative, please email [communications@glenparkschool.org](mailto:communications@glenparkschool.org) to get on the mailing list. ❖

*Eric Kammerud is the communications co-chair of the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization. For updates on school events, go to [glenparkschool.org](http://glenparkschool.org). Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/glenparkschool](https://facebook.com/glenparkschool).*



# Glen Park Walkabout During Shelter-in-Place

There's a saying you come across reading travel writing that speaks to travel's serendipity: "If you never pass it, you'll never fall into it."

I've been pretty much sheltered-in-place since March 16. I follow state and city directives. I seldom venture from the house. When I do, I mask up and keep a requisite six-foot social distance from others.

If I drop my guard, it's to shop and exercise. Either may yet become my Achilles heel.

During this time I decided to make it a mission to revisit neighborhood people and places I'd written about for the *Glen Park News* over the past 12 years, in hopes of testing philosopher George Edward Moore's maxim: "A man travels the world in search of what he needs and returns home to find it."

**Canyon Market:** The temperature in downtown Glen Park hadn't topped 50 degrees as my wife, Marcia, and I parked at the corner of Diamond and Chenery streets. By 6:50 a.m., shoppers, none of whom will ever see 65 again, began queueing up outside Canyon Market.

It was the second week of Richard and Janet Tarlov's gift to senior citizens, an hour of grocery shopping during the ongoing pandemic.

Age, like military rank, has its privileges.

I'd first met Janet in March 2008. I watched her bake sandwich rolls early one morning in preparation for my first *Glen Park News* article. Back then her hands had been blanketed in flour. A baker's dozen years later they were wet with heavy duty sanitizer that she swabbed across shopping carts. She wore a red French beret and a puffy coat to fend off the chill. Janet played the part of store gatekeeper; her goal was to keep septuagenarian shoppers such as me—and her essential employees—safe.

My wife's strategic plan was simple; get in and out of the store as quickly as possible. With this in mind, she'd given me my marching orders. I'd been handed a shopping list that fits my epicurean skill set.

"Buy chocolate bars, ice cream, bread, eggs and two cartons of 1 percent milk," she said.

After 50 years together, Marcia knows my limitations.

Dave's Bread, our favorite, wasn't available, so I did a one-eighty and



Leslie Moxley tends her bed at Craggs Court Community Garden.

Photos by Murray Schneider

headed for the freshly baked French breads in the front of the store. NPR had broadcast a story that seniors could mitigate their self-imposed confinement by walking up and down household halls while on the telephone. I figured a grocery store aisle seemed a likely substitute.

Behind the counter, a young man gestured to a loaf.

"It's warm," he said, bagging it. "Just from the oven."

"Bread is in short supply because people making it are vulnerable," Janet told me later, "while produce isn't because restaurants are closed and it means more for groceries."

My wife continued performing maneuvers, while I bivouacked in the potato chip aisle, searching for Hawaiian chips for a neighbor who'd taken the lockdown more seriously than I.

When we'd entered, there'd been no more than 10 shoppers; when we left, carrying a trio of stuffed-to-the-brim cloth bags—since March 16, the City has mandated store-issue paper bags, and Janet has limited shopping to one person per household—it was 7:28 a.m.

The senior discount kicked in as we watched the clerk ring up our groceries. We stood the requisite six feet apart. Janet has instituted a policy she

calls "round-up." To thank her employees, customers can round up their bill to the nearest dollar or make a larger contribution.

I surrendered my discount. As I did, I thought about the homeless man who'd stood at the store's Diamond Street entrance two years ago. He'd gone MIA months before the current health crisis. He'd told me he slept in

restaurant doorways where he could scarf food and sleep more securely than in a dormitory-style shelter. I thought, too, of the thousands of laid-off Bay Area workers facing mortgage or rent payments and long waits in pop-up food pantry lines and how fortunate I am. I was only a week from my monthly state teacher retirement

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Janet Tarlov (left) greets customers outside Canyon Market during the senior hour.



# Glen Park Walkabout During Shelter-in-Place

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check, “the gift that keeps on coming.”

My wife’s strategy had beaten the clock by two minutes. She’d wanted us in and out in 30 minutes.

“We don’t want to have to come back for a week or more,” she’d said.

Back home, I helped her carry the groceries inside the house we’ve shared for 47 years. Then I retreated to the television room, which once served as our bedroom while our two girls attended Lowell High School. We’re empty nesters now; both daughters are sheltering-in-place 3,000 miles away, one in Brooklyn, the other in Washington, D.C.

I was ready to settle in for another Groundhog Day of self-quarantine. Marcia appeared in the doorway. “Did you forget something?” she asked.

I knew full well what was coming.

“The eggs,” she said.

“I’ll go back.”

“No, you won’t,” she said. “We’re old and I want you safe.”

Back in the kitchen, she began planning a week’s worth of dinner menus.

Afterward she got ready for her 45-minute online Pilates class, then a scheduled Zoom lunch with friends, then a virtual cocktail hour with more friends.

Marcia volunteers weekly, writing personalized postcards on electing Democrats to Congress. When she’s finished writing the scripted cards in curling cursive and colorful ink, we get some steps in by walking to Diamond Heights and sitting in the Little Red Hen Community Garden, then walking to the post office. On occasion I’ve made the three-mile round trip myself.

**Crags Court Garden:** Afterward, I head to Berkeley Way, then to Crags Court. At the end of the cul-de-sac stands a community garden filled with 20 garden plots of vegetable beds. There are Brussels sprouts, beets, broccoli, zucchini, kale, carrots, potatoes, spinach, lettuce and peas. The garden, one of 40 or so community gardens in San Francisco, is watchdogged by Rec and Park and nurtured by neighborhood gardeners.

I’ve been visiting it for three years, ever since I first chanced upon it.

Leslie Moxley, who lives on Crags Court, was tending her bed on April 24.

I staked out a favorite bench, which overlooks the eastern edge of Glen Canyon, unpacked a sandwich and twisted open a water bottle. The noon sun beat down, which caused my cell

phone to fry. It signaled it was overheated and inoperable. I stuffed it into my backpack and let it cool off.

Leslie’s flower bed teemed with lupine. “The sunshine loves them,” she told me. “They’re blooming and growing inches a day.”

Critters have taken notice, but so have two-legged visitors.

“The gophers are trying like crazy to get at the flowers,” Leslie said.

Beth Mooney, another gardener, stood next to Leslie, a foot or two from Kaya, her 13-year-old SPCA rescue dog. Beth, who lives on Congo Street, enters the canyon from Bosworth Street and challenges the eastern slope to gain access to the garden.

“And our best kept secret is no longer a secret since the pandemic,” she volunteered.

“People never knew we existed,” Leslie said. “More people than usual are exploring the neighborhood. On sunny days, we can have as many as 50 non-neighbors heading past.”

“I invite them in. It’s such a calm place,” she said. “Even if they get only five minutes of peace in their lives, I’m proud.”

I checked out recently installed wire gopher cages and gopher baskets protecting veggies, but except for the two gardeners, we were alone. If there had been an uptick in visitors since the health crisis, it wasn’t evident.

However, a sign put in place since my visit a week earlier spoke volumes, a message announcing the coronavirus new normal.

“Attention Visitors!” it read. “Garden benches, gate latches, faucets, etc. are touched every day by dozens of people. BE SAFE! Wipe these items with disinfectant before and after use.”

“With the playgrounds shut down, we’re seeing more nannies and parents coming by,” Leslie said. “We don’t want to shut down, we just want to know visitors are safe.”

Mary Devereaux, whom I’d met in 2017, emailed me last year about a diseased tree that had fallen. The pine had laid waste to several beds, then slammed into an adjacent house. Rec and Park arrived days later and removed it. Arborists followed, assessing the danger to several other Monterey pines on the garden’s hillside.

The morning I’d met Mary, on April 2, no one had appeared except for a Rec and Park intern who posted the now familiar [sf.gov/coronavirus](http://sf.gov/coronavirus) blue sign directing visitors to remain six feet



Beth Mooney at her Crags Court Community Garden bed.

Photo by Murray Schneider

apart. The young woman tacked a sign on the gate, then another along a fence close to the box steps that drop into the canyon.

While she worked, hawks circled. A mother accompanied her 5-year-old child along the steps and took a place beneath a pine tree. She laid out a blanket, and she and her daughter treated themselves to a picnic. Walkers strolled by, headed toward Radish Hill. A dog walker trailed his golden retriever in the opposite direction, hiking toward the canyon entrance parallel to Alms Road at the bottom of the hill.

**The ECO-SF Farm:** I said my good-byes to Leslie and Beth and took my leave. Radish Hill in the near distance loomed large and green to my right. I descended numerous box steps, eventually gaining the stringer steps that bifurcate the Saddle Trail. At my age, I stay clear of Radish Hill, as the drop-off is steep and during the current epidemic I want to avoid hospitals. I continued along the Creek-to-Peaks Trail until the Diamond Heights houses on stilts appeared.

Farther along the trail, now on

SFUSD property, I continued. If I’d remained on the trail, I’d have reached Portola Drive.

A cyclone fence separates the path from what was once McAteer High School’s football field. A gaping hole, which looked as if it had been caused by a land mine, raked the fence.

I ducked beneath it, avoiding sharp edges. On my left a shopping cart filled with empty pop bottles, tin cans and a grunge-filled plastic Safeway bag laden with additional detritus stood abandoned.

The other side of the fence served up a neglected softball diamond, then a track that wraps around a prep football field. On the first-base side of the diamond are a series of logs, sheltered by trees. Beyond the trees are abandoned basketball hoops. One of the logs features a wooden back, which makes for comfortable and shaded sitting. Since mid-March, families relax on the field, spaced safely apart.

ECO-SF, a community nonprofit, with the official blessing of the SFUSD underwrites and operates a student

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# Glen Park Walkabout During Shelter-in-Place

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farm adjacent to the track. With School of the Arts and Academy of Arts and Science student participation, ECO-SF practices sustainable agriculture and farming and, until the COVID-19 campus shutdown, sold eggs, soap and body balm, as well as kale, mustard greens and garlic at its weekly after-school farmers market, housed in a parking lot on O'Shaughnessy Boulevard.

ECO-SF hopes to see a resumption of the what it calls its "General Store" in the fall, but continues sponsoring a work day on the second Saturday of each month from noon to 4 p.m., and welcomes volunteers to take responsibility for weeding, wood-chipping and watering.

I've walked to the SFSUD farm at least a dozen of times since March 16, each trip offering a haven more relaxing than the previous one. Now it's more than ever a port in the storm. Except for the clucks of nine chickens and the padding of joggers, it remains a tapestry of tranquility.

The poultry don't lack for company. Two sets of parents and their children circled the coop one afternoon. One mother had wandered from Mt. Davidson; the other from Midtown Terrace. Two sisters, aged 3 and 6, and a

6-year-old boy seemed in rustic heaven.

I checked my watch. I'd been gone nearly four hours. Standing, I patted my pockets, a geriatric concession to misplacing house keys as well as a personal barometer to our tanking economy. The last time I'd looked, I had the same \$10 bill in my wallet that I'd had one day after the Ides of March. I hadn't traveled any place where I needed to spend cash. At home, my 14-year-old car remained parked on the street, collecting windshield pollen, while a library book gathered dust on my bedside nightstand.

On another day, Marcia and I packed a lunch and walked to the high school. There we met Fernando Aguilar, the SFUSD and ECO-SF resident beekeeper. Sans masks (they hadn't yet been mandated), we exchanged elbows, standing a few feet from his honeybee hive.

Bumping elbows seems like second nature now. A month earlier, four days after the mandated lockdown and four weeks before my visit to Crags Court, elbow bumps were novel, like the coronavirus itself. That day, only four days into confinement, I'd slipped into my version of stir-crazy.

"The bees have been thriving, both native bumblebees and European honeybees," he told us. "This spring's bloom,



Marcia Schneider and Fernando Aguilar greet one another at ECO-SF student farm by bumping elbows.  
Photos by Murray Schneider

especially ceanothus and echium, offers plenty of busy bees gathering nectar and pollen for their hives."

Last winter, for the first time, Fernando said, all four of his hives in Glen Park and Bernal Heights survived the winter and were thriving. "I usually get 50 per cent die-off," he said. "It's been a good year for bees, a bad one for humans."

Fernando's a 1976 McAteer graduate, where he lettered in two varsity sports. A PG&E project manager, he recently supervised a retrofit of Glen Park's power station at Bosworth and Rousseau streets.

He bicycles to the farm twice a week and checks his honeybees. He could have put his beehive anywhere, but he chose his alma mater's football field, where he starred as a wide receiver. At 62, he's athletic and trim, still sprinting on the track twice a week after he sees what's happening with the hive.

"I hope to keep the hive here indefinitely," he said, affection for his former school sweetening his discourse. "It's an addition to the community garden run by Tori Jacobs and it's one of my favorite spaces in the city."

For sure he won't be getting any buzz back from the school district: "I'm hoping to harvest and donate at least 30 pounds of honey to the school's Little Farmers Market when it's up and running again."

On May 2, he and I sat together again. Now, six weeks after our previous visit, we both wore masks. "Life

has been more or less the same during the crisis," he said. "Swimmers like you and me, who swim three times a week, are going through major withdrawals. I dream about being in the water, even about getting a wetsuit and trying Aquatic Park."

He bicycles to Twin Peaks now that the road is closed to motorists, but his default exercise takes place on his former high school track. "I hated every jogging step I've ever taken. It doesn't work for me. Too hard on my old hips," he said. "I love sprinting, though. I do five-220-yard dashes at three-quarters speed, then six 50-yard sprints at 90 percent. I don't go full tilt because I'm afraid of pulling a muscle," he explained. "When my body doesn't feel right, I stop."

Then he let go with a philosophic riff, one undoubtedly gleaned from a McAteer class. "They say the body whispers before it screams."

As we parted, he plucked a few leaves of kale from a row of greens. "For dinner tonight," he said.

**Going to the Dogs:** What's more domestic than dogs and their constant companions?

There's Mary Huizinga, who lives on Laidley Street and walks Josie, her 7-year-old chow chow twice as often in the canyon now that the virus has upended her routine escorting Josie to dog parks. Despite more families using the canyon, Mary still manages to keep her social distance.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



The ECO-SF community garden is run by Tori Jacobs.



# Glen Park Walkabout During Shelter-in-Place

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Then there's Kathleen Kelly, who lives on Joost Street and who walks Luna early each morning. Luna has topped a dozen years and is combating renal disease. When I ask Kathleen what will happen when Luna passes, she saddens.

Almost weekly I encounter Shayna and her dog Sadie. They make it over from Chilton Street. Most recently, along the highest reaches of the canyon, I came across Rachel Gordon and Liz Mangelsdorf walking their dog Ziggy. Ziggy still thinks she's a puppy and is appropriately named, as she zigzags along narrow paths. On alert, the two *Glen Park News* editors seem aware that one misplaced paw could send Ziggy over the trail's edge.

Then, of course, there's the other Mary, Mary Daly. She's a hospital pediatric nurse who lives on Chenery Street with Bruce Bochy, her 130-pound Labrador-Newfoundland mix. Mary named Bruce after the former San Francisco Giants baseball manager. He's is a lovable lug; when Bruce isn't shambling, he's salivating.

When I came across Mary and Bruce, Mary sat near the bank of Islais Creek in Glen Canyon. Bruce, as befits a dog named after a baseball catcher, had erringly booted his ball into the creek's shrubs. He'd buried his nose in the vegetation. Mary chided him, which simply puzzled him further.

Bruce's freight-car hindquarters bulldozed Mary as she stood after retrieving Bruce's ball. Then they began walking along Alms Road. I asked if I could join them.

As we walked along the fire road, we took in the California wildflowers blooming amidst native grasses. Coyote bush clumped below craggy rock outcrops that loomed above.

Trailing behind Bruce, Mary said she'd recently seen two coyotes sunning themselves along the eastern grassland slope. "Bruce went after them," she said. "They were too fast."

Some smaller dogs have been less fortunate.

On the upper trail of the canyon, I came across a coyote last year. At first I thought it was another dog, waiting for its owner to bring up the rear. Not so. We stared at one another for a moment, then it moved off trail, camouflaging itself among arroyo willow.

Mary and I continued for a while, eventually reaching a seep adjacent to a boardwalk. The seep boasts rare habitat, and during the fall it's home to



Reporter Murray Schneider with Bruce Bochy.

intricately spun pumpkin spider orbs.

"The best mistake I ever made was turning onto Chenery Street," she said. "Is this paradise?"

No, I thought to myself. It's Glen Canyon.

**Little League History:** I recalled an email I'd received after Mother's Day from Mareth Vedder, the daughter of Thelma Williams, San Francisco's first woman Little League baseball coach. Thelma, who'd lived in the Sunnyside on Joost Street, had died the week of Mother's Day. That's when Mareth and her family began leaving flowers to celebrate Thelma's life on the Rec Center baseball diamond backstop.

"We hung the flowers that first year," Mareth emailed, "then we hiked to the back of the canyon. It was healing. It was probably then we decided this was how we wanted to celebrate Mother's Day each year."

Thelma's name is commemorated at a Rec Center baseball diamond, and this spring Mareth revisited the canyon alone and placed a bouquet near the plaque that honors her mother.

"The canyon was ethereal that morning," she wrote. "I parked and the sun filtered through the eucalyptus. I pulled some weeds, washed off the

plaque, hung the flowers, and enjoyed the dominant sounds of birds in the rare solitude. A large, beautiful hawk flew over my head and I realized how blessed I was to have been raised in this part of the city and the connection my mom and my entire family had to the park."

We'd reached the place on the trail where you can choose three directions. To the right a set of steps headed up to Christopher Playground. Ahead, where I was going, the school farm beckoned. To the left, around Willow Loop Trail, Mary and Bruce would double back to Thelma Williams' field of dreams.

"Remember," Mary told me, looking over her shoulder, "If you walk in the canyon, always bring a large dog!"

**Returning Home:** Later, after leaving the farm, I walked a stretch of Portola Drive. Walkers sometimes defer to me; other times I give way to them. Sometimes we exchange a hello, a thumbs up, a smile. Since the contagion, I'd take a bet we've all felt a sense of comity with strangers, who in pre-pandemic days we wouldn't have acknowledged, but now feel comfortable taking a moment to greet.

Brings to mind what Ben Franklin

said during another time, a time that also "tried men's souls."

"Assuredly, we must all hang together," he said, "or we will certainly hang separately."

Each time my wife and I return home from one of our walkabouts, I'm thankful we're not suffering elevated temperatures, shortness of breath or lingering coughs. At dinner each night, we relax at the kitchen table.

I don't know how long the new reality will last, or if there will be a second act. I know there'll be a final curtain, mitigation or no mitigation, precipitous or rolling reopening, containment or resurgence.

Seniors are at continued risk at the hands of the scourge, so chances are I'll remain close to home after we're green-lighted to resume normal activities. For the long haul, or at least until there's a vaccine, I'll not brave BART to the Embarcadero YMCA or fly to Brooklyn to see my two grandchildren.

I'll miss the swimming pool; I'll miss the kids even more.

My wife told me not long ago, as she suited up for a turn or two around the block, "It's getting boring."

I'll take boring. It beats the alternative.

Until I feel safe, I'll shelter-in-place, thank you very much. I'll return home, where I always find everything I need. Then I'll wash my hands.

Next time you see me in the neighborhood and want to learn more, well, just ask.

You won't have to travel far to find me. ♦



The plaque and flowers commemorate Thelma Williams.



# A Senseless Death: Glen Park Mourns Leo Hainzl

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

Wilkes. She remembered him grabbing his wheelbarrow when she and her partner were moving a mountain of soil to the garden they were building.

"Even though it had a deflated tire, that 90-some-year-old man wheeled that thing (his dog Rip along for the ride, of course) all the way up a steep San Francisco hill for us," said Wilkes in a heartfelt post on Facebook following Hainzl's death.

Pat McGinnis has lived a few houses from Hainzl on Sussex Street for decades.

"I was shocked to see he was 94," she said. "Every day he would walk up Diamond—he was amazing."

She met him about 28 years ago, she said.

"He had a hothouse under his porch," McGinnis said. "He would grow these incredible tomatoes, and I would stop to admire them. One day I came home, and there's a basket of tomatoes on my front porch."

Thereafter, they chatted when they saw each other. He reminded her to move her car for street cleaning, he rolled her garbage bins back to her gate. Over the years, she and her daughter (and later her granddaughter) made a tradition of giving him cookies and a bone for the dog at Christmas.

According to neighborhood historian Evelyn Rose, Hainzl was born in 1925 in Austria. (Rose's genealogy report at the end of this article has additional details about Hainzl's life.)

In the tumult of World War II, he became what was known as a "Displaced Person," and landed in a resettlement camp in Bremerhaven, Germany. In 1953, he left for Melbourne, Australia, as part of what was called the Austrian Farmworker Scheme. He worked there as a farmer for seven years.

Hainzl arrived in San Francisco in 1960 and moved to Sussex Street in 1967. He worked as a welder and later had his own business, Hainzl Construction.

Neighbor Julien Mayot and Hainzl talked about their common heritage.

"Leo and I would talk quite often," he said. "We're both from Europe. I had a chat with him in May. He was telling me about being a World War II survivor. He fought on the Russian front, which was much worse than the Atlantic front."

Mayot summed up one of the many charms of living in Glen Park and knowing neighbors like Leo: "I think it's just a gift to have in the community mixed generations, and we learn from



Glen Park resident Leo Hainzl, was attacked and killed on Elk Street near Glen Canyon.  
Photo courtesy Mary Cunningham

each other, and that's why I asked him questions."

Kylie and Simon Rowe bonded with Hainzl over Australia.

"We were delighted to swap Australian stories with him and to learn about his varied and fascinating life," Simon said.

The pair met Leo about two years ago as he was working on his front gate.

"As new neighbors, we were concerned that he should not be climbing a ladder, so we offered to help. We went home to change, but when we returned, Leo had all but finished and he was too independent to allow us to jump in!"

Hainzl was fiercely independent that way, and proud of what he was capable of, his neighbor Mary Cunningham said.

"He was a proud perfectionist in his work," she said. "When he was making his railings, if one little thing was off—something I wouldn't have even noticed—he would have to take it off and fix it."

He was formerly a licensed contractor who built residential and commercial buildings, and he still had all his tools, she said.

Mayot concurred: "This past weekend he was working, drilling and fixing. His shop was full of tools and he was still using them."

Perhaps one of the secrets to Hainzl's high energy was his love for Red Bull. According to his neighbor, Charlene Thomas of Van Buren Street, he'd drink two or three cans every day. But, being a thrifty old-world European, he looked forward to stocking up when Costco was having a sale. "He'd get the two-case limit, get back in his car, drive around the block and go back and get two more cases. He'd then do it all over again, since he liked to get six cases at a time," said Thomas.

When he wasn't walking or fixing,

Hainzl liked to sit on the porch and read, Cunningham said. Sometimes it was *National Geographic*, sometimes construction magazines, and every week he read *The Economist* from end to end.

"He was very intellectually curious," she said. "He would underline parts of the magazine."

McGinnis recalled that Hainzl's first dog, Fritz, was quite the duck hunting companion.

"It could be really rainy so he got Fritz a little raincoat," she said.

Fritz and Leo's other dogs were so well trained they could be walked off-leash, said neighbor Dawn Isaacs. "Except for the last one, Rip—he was more of a free spirit who'd get away and the neighbors would be trying to return him to Leo."

Indeed, Rip's last escape prevented Hainzl from taking a planned clay pigeon shoot with Mayot: "We set a date to meet at 10 a.m., but Rip ran off, and he couldn't assemble his rifle together."

Cunningham described him as devoted to his dogs. "He used to say to me, 'Rip owns me, I don't own Rip,'" she said.

Hainzl's death caused an outpouring of grief and shock on the site *Nextdoor*, as neighbors struggled to understand how such a strong presence could now be gone.

"It left a hole in the neighborhood," McGinnis said. "He probably didn't even know it. I guess we were very fortunate to have him here."

## Genealogy from Evelyn Rose

Leopold Hainzl was born on either June 11 or Nov. 6, 1925 (depending on the record), in Schwarzbach, part of the Wiener Neustadt-Land District in eastern Austria. No information has been found about his early life

in Austria. However, following World War II, he is found in genealogical records on the Africa, Asia and Europe Passenger Lists of Displaced Persons, 1946 to 1971.

After WWII, the havoc brought on by the war and the Nazi regime had uprooted many citizens in Germany and Austria, having been displaced from their homes of origin, they were considered "stateless." Those who wished to immigrate to new locales were allowed to do so under the International Refugee Organization and later the Intergovernmental Committee for the Movements of Migrants from Europe, based on agreements under the United Nations. People listed in the Displaced Persons Lists were either Holocaust survivors, former concentration camp inmates and Nazi forced laborers, or refugees from other Central and Eastern European countries. It is not clear which of these groups Leo may have been associated with. The Displaced Persons List is organized by the location of the European resettlement camp the individual had been assigned to.

In the Displaced Persons List, Leo is listed as #1222, noted to be 27 years of age and single. He departed his resettlement camp in Bremerhaven, Germany on May 8, 1953. He was bound for Melbourne, Australia on the transport ship the *Seven Seas*. According to a May 1954 report, 1,907 refugees were resettled in Australia that year. A total of 19,711 European refugees were resettled that year; most went to Australia, Brazil, Canada, Greece, Israel, Turkey and Latin America.

Leo arrived in San Francisco in May 1960 on the British ship the *SS Orsova*, along with several other German and Austrian immigrants. Having arrived in America alone, it appears he married Gisela Hainzl soon after. They divorced in June 1962. There is no record of a residence in San Francisco for Leo until 1962, when he resided at 645 Stockton St. By 1967 he had moved to Sussex Street, and his occupation was listed as a welder at Heat and Control. In later years, Hainzl Construction was also listed at that address. He married Maria Concordia Aquino in Reno, Nevada in 1971, a marriage that lasted two years.

Leo lived on Sussex Street for the remainder of his life, a neighborhood fixture frequently met by neighbors walking to, from or along the slopes of Glen Canyon Park with his dog. ♦



## ❖ GLEN PARK REAL ESTATE ❖

**W**ell, who would have ever believed...

First, I hope you are all staying safe and healthy in what has been the strangest several months in most of our lives. If you had told me six months ago that the whole world would be sheltering in place to stop a pandemic, I would have thought you were crazy. But here we are.

For the first three weeks of the lockdown, real estate activity came to a standstill. Deals were in process, but we were all just trying to come to grips with what was happening. I'm happy to say that the Realtor community in San Francisco, as a whole, took a pause and came together to protect our community. There was a lot of confusion at first with orders coming from the county and the state, and also from the National Association of Realtors and the California Association of Realtors. There were a lot of mixed messages and just plain, "we don't know," which should be fully expected as none of us has ever been through something like this before.

But the messaging has become more clear as the weeks have passed, and guidance from state and local officials has been formed. I am proud of Mayor London Breed and Gov. Gavin Newsom for their leadership during this time. We, as a city, have truly been a shining example to the rest of the country of how a much worse crisis was averted.

My heart goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one, family member, friend or acquaintance to COVID-19. I hope that, as you read this, cases in the Bay Area will still be on the decline.

When I was asked if I thought I should write a column for this issue, it wasn't even a question for me. Real estate is an essential service, and the business of buying and selling homes has continued through this crisis. So let's take a look at what has gone on the last few months.

Single-Family Homes					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
23 Laidley St.	2/24/20	0	\$4,395,000	\$4,395,000	100.00%
3045 Castro St.	3/4/20	12	\$1,249,000	\$1,455,000	116.49%
76 Harper St.	3/18/20	14	\$1,495,000	\$1,700,000	113.71%
366 Chenery St.	3/19/20	12	\$1,395,000	\$1,800,000	129.03%
123 Stillings Ave.	3/20/20	116	\$1,400,000	\$1,205,000	86.07%
2580 Diamond St.	4/13/20	12	\$1,559,000	\$1,781,000	114.24%
90 Laidley St.	4/17/20	36	\$4,295,000	\$4,100,000	95.46%
31 Fairmount St.	5/13/20	11	\$2,100,000	\$2,240,000	106.67%
430 Arlington St.	5/19/20	37	\$1,275,000	\$1,500,000	117.65%
54 Sussex St.	5/22/20	8	\$1,675,000	\$1,760,000	105.07%
Condominiums/Multi Unit Buildings					
ADDRESS	SALE DATE	DOM	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/LP
87 Miguel St. - Condominium	2/21/20	12	\$1,199,000	\$1,545,000	128.86%
192 Laidley St. - Condominium	3/5/20	7	\$725,000	\$911,000	125.66%
1772 Sanchez St. - Condominium	3/6/20	14	\$1,175,000	\$1,300,000	110.64%
214 Roanoke St. - Condominium	3/20/20	12	\$1,399,000	\$1,760,000	125.80%
85 Miguel St. - Condominium	4/10/20	24	\$1,195,000	\$1,300,000	108.79%
DOM - Days on market			SP/LP - % over or under list price		

Normally this would have been one of the busiest quarters of the year, but because of the pandemic we saw a significant drop in activity—not as much of a drop as you would have thought, though. Between Feb. 17 and May 25, 15 homes were sold in Glen Park. The median sale price for a single family home in Glen Park was \$1,770,000. The median list price was \$1,527,000 for this period. The average overbid was steady at about 9 percent over asking. The median price per square foot was \$1,074.

The average days on market did increase to 25, up from 17 during the previous quarter. Not surprisingly, a majority of those sales were in the works before the shelter-in-place orders, but five of the 15 homes sold came on the market, sold and closed during the worst of it. As of this writing, there are eight homes for sale in Glen Park, which is down about 30

percent from last quarter.

Currently there about 900 active listings in the city, which is not really far off from last quarter or even last year at this time. The number of new listings that came on the market in April, city-wide, dropped by 40 percent from April 2019. The number of sold listings in April was down 60 percent from April 2019. But the line is trending back up.

As I write this, the market is continuing to show more signs of activity. Things have certainly changed for all of us in the real estate community. There are new protocols that have to be followed and will likely stay in place for a while. There are currently no traditional open houses allowed. Initial showings of property are encouraged to be virtual. In-person showings were not even allowed for the first several weeks of the lockdown, but are now allowed with very specific protocols.

As with most of you, all our meetings have been via Zoom or the like, including both our state and national real estate conferences—which would have been in person, but still did take place. The San Francisco Association of Realtors, along with several other Bay Area real estate associations, came together to raise money to purchase and distribute personal protective equipment and meals for local hospital workers and those on the front lines.

I guess what I'm saying is that we all have had to adapt, and will continue to do so until this is all over. But some of the protocols and processes that we've put into place may become part of doing business in the future. Many companies, large and small, have seen the benefit of their employees working from home, whereas prior to this a lot of them did not. Many large companies have told their employees they can work from home indefinitely.

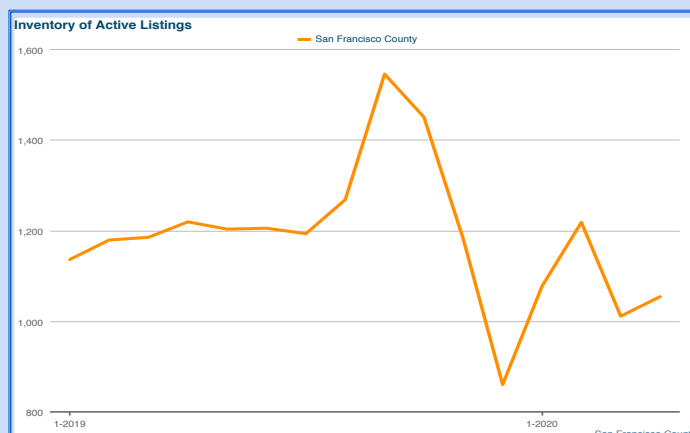
I am not trying to downplay the terrible personal and financial tragedies that have occurred during this time. Unemployment is out of control. Many retail establishments, restaurants, bars and entertainment venues have closed for good. Nearly 5 million households across the country are in forbearance on their mortgages. The mass protests over the treatment of African Americans and other people of color in the wake of the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer will have both political and health repercussions into the indefinite future. The effects of this pandemic will not go away quickly.

In terms of real estate, we shall see what the rest of this year brings. From all of the meetings, conferences and agent-to-agent conversations I've had with folks from all over the state and country, the general consensus is that the market, especially here in California, will bounce back quickly. We have the laws of supply and demand in our favor. We are even more fortunate to live in the Bay Area, which continues to be a desirable destination and where many companies that continued to operate during the pandemic were able to switch over to a virtual way of operating so that the majority of their employees were able to keep their jobs.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy, and enjoy the summer weather. ❖

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### Inventory of Active Listings San Francisco



### Sold Listings San Francisco

