Imagine an above-ground creek running through the heart of downtown Glen Park, or what is now the neighborhood’s most chaotic intersection made more welcoming for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. Imagine a large housing complex for mixed-income residents built across from the BART station.

Those are just some of the ideas percolating, as government agencies contemplate new development plans for Glen Park.

While nothing has been decided, planning is under way on two fronts: City Planning’s creation of the Glen Park Community Plan, and BART’s anticipated makeover of the train station and development of the parking lot it owns across the street at 42 Bosworth.

The decisions—whatever they are—are sure to shape the neighborhood for years to come.

The first process is the currently six-years-and-counting creation of the Glen Park Community Plan—a roadmap for neighborhood improvements related to transportation, streets, parks and open spaces. Think of it as a template for future development.

While City-initiated community plans don’t dictate what gets built, they do include recommendations for code and zoning changes for the targeted areas.

Other neighborhood plans that have recently been completed or are under way include the Octavia/Market Plan (http://bit.ly/MarketOctavia), the Japantown Plan (http://bit.ly/Japantown), the Balboa Park Plan (http://bit.ly/Balboa) and the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan.

Here in Glen Park, our Community Plan is being created under the auspices of the San Francisco Planning Department. Planner Jon Swae heads up the project. You can read the City’s current information about the plan at http://bit.ly/GlenPark. You can contact Swae at 575-9069 or jon.swae@sfgov.org.

Basically, the Glen Park Community Plan consists of concepts and policies aimed at creating a more livable neighborhood, from calming traffic around Diamond and Bosworth streets to the more audacious idea of bringing Islais Creek above ground, allowing it to merrily burble along Bosworth from Glen Canyon Park to somewhere near the BART station.

The biggest and most contentious portion of the plan-in-progress is the possibility of allowing the areas closest to the BART station to have higher residential densities—more units packed into a development—with an affordable housing component.

Under existing City law, new multi-family residential developments above a certain size are required to provide a certain percentage of affordable units, or the developer can contribute to a City-run fund to build affordable housing elsewhere. So-called affordability covers a large range. For a family of four, for example, the income could be as high as $80,000 a year.

At the same time, BART is exploring the feasibility of developing high-density housing on its parking lot on Bosworth Street, between Diamond and Arlington. However, the zoning would have to be changed to allow residential or commercial development there.

Skyscrapers are Unlikely

City policy already endorses the idea of higher-density projects along transit-rich corridors such as downtown Glen...
There always was something comforting when adding a brief description of the author at the end of our regular “On Patrol” column. It read: “SFPD Officer Michael Walsh lives and works in Glen Park.”

His presence, as a neighbor who patrolled our streets wearing his blue uniform and badge, was important. He was one of us. He knew the streets, the merchants, the kind and trustworthy neighbors, and the less savory ones. He knew the rhythms of Glen Park.

Mike Walsh died July 2, felled by a heart attack. He was 54.

Mike’s column went far beyond many police columns in neighborhood papers. For the most part, he steered clear of the usual rundown of recent crimes. Instead, he gave us the back-story of police policies and crime trends. He also allowed his opinions to come through in print, which is unusual for someone in the lower ranks of a paramilitary organization with rigid hierarchy. Often, his views emerged subtly.

Take, for example, an excerpt from his last column in the Summer 2009 edition of the Glen Park News in which he wrote about the San Francisco Police Department’s ambitious plan to reform policing in San Francisco, with Ingle-side Station—Glen Park’s home station—serving as the initiative’s guinea pig.

“The department brass has pledged their financial and logistical support during this rollout,” Mike wrote. “We’ll see.”

No toe-the-company-line rah-rah from him. Instead, a welcome dose of honest skepticism.

Mike didn’t set out to be a columnist. We found him—actually randomly—serving as the initiative’s guinea pig.

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.

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glen park association news

I open Glen Park Association mail from the P.O. box, check the Glen Park Bulletin Board post, click e-mails to “president@glenparkassociation.org,” talk to neighbors on the way to BART, look at the crime reports from Ingleside Station, read notices posted at Canyon Market and chat with Ric López, who owns Modern/Past on Chenery Street and serves as president of the neighborhood merchants’ association, and keep in touch with other GPA board members.

That’s my regular routine as I try to keep up with Glen Park problems and progress.

The mail often brings City Planning notices of building applications for residential expansions. Neighbors have 30 days to request “Discretionary Review” if there are design or size concerns. “DR” can be a long and contentious process leading to one or more Planning Commission hearings.

In my years as a GPA officer, I have been pleased that our neighborhood generates few DR cases. GPA board members are comfortable that most residential projects that meet Planning Code will balance compatibility with the neighborhood against the new space for Glen Park households.

My “professional” interest in monitoring such applications became more “personal” recently when we received a notice of a neighbor planning a major remodel. Now we were looking at plans for an expanded building on our lot line, with some change in height. Well, it really was not the ideal project from our side, but we thought long and hard about a DR dispute. We passed, and I have the satisfaction that I followed GPA philosophy on avoiding DR.

The online Glen Park Bulletin Board has been lively with comments on the draft Community Plan, potential development of the BART parking lot, and the loss of parking in “downtown” Glen Park.

Again, my “professional” interest in the GPA role to help sort out the competing goals becomes “personal” as I run errands in the village, and look for parking on Saturdays. Is someone leaving a space? Is the Nissan going to grab it? Surrey Street is not that far away to park, is it? Is buying 12 minutes at the meter enough? Why don’t I keep a parking meter card in the car?

Finally, I remember: After I moved to San Francisco in the 1970s, it was only about two weeks before I realized every car trip in the city needs a plan: Where will I park when I get there? It won’t be right in front of the store or restaurant. I learned to enjoy walking a couple of extra blocks.

Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association.

Police, Parks Hot Topics at Glen Park Association Summer Meeting

The summer meeting of the Glen Park Association, held July 8, began with a short remembrance by GPA President Michael Rice of Officer Mike Walsh, longtime Glen Park resident, San Francisco Police patrol officer and author of a much-read column in the Glen Park News.

Next came SFPD Capt. David Lazar, who began as the new head of Ingleside Station on April 18. Lazar, an extremely energetic man, literally bounced on his feet as he told the crowd of about 50 residents about new policing strategies.
Neighbor, Cop, Family Man, Leader: Mike Walsh Dies; Glen Park Mourns

Officer Michael Walsh, a longtime resident of Glen Park, passed away suddenly July 2, leaving a tide of remembrances and a profound sense of loss among family, friends, colleagues and neighbors. Husband, father of four, active PTA member, choir participant, Mike Walsh was a neighborhood anchor whose visible presence in his police car or on foot, jogging along the neighborhood streets, was a part of daily life in Glen Park.

In his quiet, steady manner, he stabilized the neighborhood, making himself available to any and all calls, questions, requests about safety, law, politics and stories about the history of our community. As a writer for the Glen Park News, his regular column “On Patrol in Glen Park,” allowed us to see our familiar streets through the eyes of one who knew the streets both as a San Francisco native and as a policeman focusing on issues and concerns of safety, security and stability.

Mike Walsh was a San Francisco police officer working out of the Ingleside Station. There he was both a training officer, working with recent graduates of the Police Academy, bridging between the classroom and the streets, and a school resource officer, working with children and their families. Officer Walsh was a familiar sight at schools.

According to his fellow officers at Ingleside Station, he was successful in what he did because “he had a talent that allowed him to talk to anyone.” “He wasn’t the typical police officer,” one sergeant said; “he wasn’t ready to put the hammer down; he would work with [people].”

One of the things that made Walsh an atypical policeman was his decision to switch from businessman to cop around the age of 40. He and his wife Flo and their children lived in Glen Park for years before he made the career change from the printing business to police officer—a choice made possible by a successful anti-discrimination suit against the Police Department in the 1980s that eliminated an age cap of 35 for new applicants to the force.

Asked his thoughts on why Walsh made the switch, Lieutenant Tim Plyer, his first supervisor at Ingleside following his Police Academy training, replied, “Mike felt the call. He was drawn to it. Some people have a calling to be a painter or a priest. Mike wanted to be a cop. Mike’s grandfather had been a police officer and Mike grew up around cops. He wanted to serve.”

“Mike brought all of his life experiences to the job,” said one Ingleside officer. “He was the gentle bear; the one with the cool head and the calm demeanor. When officers had problems, they would come to Mike and he would work with them to get through it. He was never dismissive. He would be patient, listen and then explain the situation and talk about it.”

Henrik Ibsen wrote, “A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed,” and President Obama reflected that our strength as a nation has depended “… on our sense of mutual regard for each other, of mutual responsibility.” “There are some things we can’t do on our own,” Obama continued. “We know that there are some things we do better together.”

It’s that rich compilation of daily deeds and mutual contributions that forge a strong community, one that becomes a composite of the unique in the ordinary. Shaped by individual efforts to extend what we know, our local success depends on our willingness to offer time, patience and kindness to people around us on a daily basis; in our homes, on our streets and in our neighborhoods.

Mike Walsh did all that, and this is why his passing makes daily life here in Glen Park so much more difficult. Now we have to find our own ways to do what we normally do, and that much more.


Supes On!
The race already is heating up for the election to pick the next District 8 supervisor — and it’s more than a year away! Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who represents Glen Park and nearby neighborhoods, will be termed out of office and plans to run for mayor. Several wannabe replacements have stepped forward well ahead of the Nov. 2, 2010 election, and are out stumping for votes — seeking endorsements, making coffee dates with neighborhood activists, showing up at community meetings and volunteer events, shaking hands and, of course, petting dogs and kissing babies. They’re even making a go of civility and, dare we say, friendliness toward each other — at least as seen in this photo posing with Dufty. From left are Scott Wiener, Laura Spanjian, Dufty, Rebecca Prozan and Rafael Mandelman. Next time we’d better grab our wide-angle lens because there’s still plenty of time for other candidates to jump into the picture.

Photo by Elizabeth Weise
Local Jeweler Finds Inspiration for Work in Glen Canyon Park

In fall, when the rains turn our natural spaces from golden to green, jewelry designer Beth VanDusen heads for Glen Canyon Park to forage. Her mission? To collect diminutive bits of flora to press into moldable silver for her unique, handmade necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

VanDusen first started making jewelry—"messing around with beading," as she calls it—while in art school at New York’s Pratt Institute. Later, while working on a graduate degree in art therapy, she began crafting "junk jewelry" from old stereo equipment, "to keep my brain sane."

After her husband was transferred to San Francisco five years ago, they settled in Glen Park. Initially unable to find work as an art therapist, VanDusen accepted a friend’s offer to participate in one of her jewelry shows, and try to sell her own creations. Shortly after, she took a workshop in a new medium called Precious Metal Clay (PMC).

PMC is basically silver or gold with an organic binder that allows the user to mold and form it, like clay. After shaping, it is fired in a kiln, where the organic binder burns off. VanDusen was smitten. She created a studio in her home on Elk Street, founded her company, called Kato’s Charm, and began to sell her work at shows and in stores across the city.

With two dogs to walk, VanDusen spent a lot of time in Glen Canyon. One day she spotted an interesting plant and decided to try pressing it into one of her pieces. The result was lovely. Today, “I’m the nutty lady in the park!” she laughs. She has an eagle eye for really tiny plants, and likes to search in the fall, when the greenery is new and small. Once she finds something, she can use it over and over again until it falls apart.

VanDusen makes custom pieces upon request, such as necklaces with a child’s birthstone and a date carved in. She’s also considering starting a line of personalized dog tags. She can be contacted through her web site, www.katoscharm.com. Perch is at 654 Chenery St. (586-9000 or www.perchsf.com).
Drop-Spot Debate: Trash or Treasure?

To some Glen Park residents, those bags of freebie clothes and old toys and unwanted sofas that just appear from time to time are a form of urban recycling, a chance for someone to make use of what the original owner no longer needs. But to the people whose sidewalks are used as dump spots, the practice is a major annoyance.

“The property owner is the responsible party as it relates to cleanliness,” says Mohammad Nuru, deputy director of the City’s Department of Public Works. In other words, strangers may leave stuff, but it’s residents who are stuck with the hassle—and sometimes the expense—of getting rid of it.

Meghan Wahl lives by one regular dump spot. (Locations of this and other regular sites are being withheld at the request of annoyed neighbors who don’t want to spread the word.) About once every three months or so, she said, someone leaves a sizable piece of furniture—a bed, a table, an upholstered chair. Once a desk stayed there for two or three weeks, but it’s residents who are stuck with the hassle—and sometimes the expense—of getting rid of it.

Since Wahl’s family rents their house, their landlord handles disposal of such things. When she and her husband want to get rid of anything, she said, they either put it on Craigslist or take it to Good Will or the Salvation Army. “We’re all about reusing things,” she said.

In addition to Craigslist, several people recommended joining the San Francisco FreeCycle network (www.freecycle.org) as a way to shed or acquire usable items.

Sunset Scavenger will pick up unwanted furniture, appliances or other bulky items for free, company spokesman Robert Reed pointed out. Every house is entitled to two free pickups a year, and apartment residents can get one. The cost is already built into garbage bills, and additional pickups can be arranged for a fee.

Leaving beat-up stuff on sidewalks is “illegal dumping,” he said, and people are fooling themselves by thinking that it will be reused. Anything made of fabric—upholstered furniture, mattresses and the like—is probably going to be urinated on by a dog in less than an hour, which ruins it for recycling, Reed said. “There are three dogs for every child in San Francisco.”

According to Reed, whatever reusable items the company collects are donated to St. Vincent de Paul, while other items are sent to companies that strip out reusable fabric, wood or metal. Even the paper in old books is recycled. “They don’t put up with illegal dumping in other cities,” said Reed, a Bernal Heights resident, “and San Francisco shouldn’t either.”

Diamond Street resident Devin Carraway, a software engineer for Google, is more sanguine about the impromptu recycling. He said he occasionally finds something of use—a stack of yoga magazines when his partner, Beth Winegarner, was taking up yoga, for example, or broken furniture he can disassemble and use for his woodworking projects.

His best score, he said, happened earlier this summer, not long after their daughter was born. Winegarner wanted a sling-type rocking chair, but new ones seemed expensive. He was about to look for a used chair when “one turned up in the trash 20 feet from us.” They cleaned it up, and it worked perfectly. “I saved a bunch of money that way,” Carraway said.

Sometimes what he discovers is at least good for a laugh: He once found a white leather thong—“certainly my favorite find”—but he was quick to add, “I left it right where I found it.”

Carraway occasionally has put usable stuff onto his sidewalk—computer parts, an old TV and kitchen items. It’s usually gone in a few hours, he said, and whatever doesn’t get taken gets recycled some other way. Nobody on his block has ever complained, he said.

Nuru, the DPW official, says that putting stuff out “is OK for up to a day,” as long as it is not allowed to become an unsightly nuisance. As far as the prevalence of curb-side recycling goes, he noted, “Glen Park is not too bad. The Mission is worse.”

Spruce-Up for Arlington

Everybody on the 300 block of Arlington Street complained about the thicket of wild fennel rising 10 feet above the top of the Bernal Cut, that strip of sunken San Jose Avenue leading to the freeway. On July 25, 37 of them turned out to do something about it.

With the help of workers from the Department of Public Works, residents cut down the giant weeds and cleared out much of the more unpalatable trash—booze and beer bottles, fast-food litter, old clothes, even human waste—that had long marred the view from this house-proud block.

“A lot of irresponsible people dump their stuff here and just leave it,” said Jennifer Furtado, a stay-at-home mom with two young kids. Once, she said, a woman picking up a chair that had been advertised on Craigslist found it wouldn’t fit into her car and tried to toss it over the fence. The neighbors insisted she take it back to the house where she got it.

Homeless people have pitched their tents amid the fennel, and school-age teens playing hooky hang out there, said Glennon Sutter, who organized snacks and drinks for the cleanup volunteers. A paved walkway runs between residents’ backyards and the shoulder-high fence atop the embankment. “Our pathway was actually their bathroom,” Sutter said of the former homeless encampment. “Kids should be able to play in the alley without stepping into stuff.”
Let’s see, now. We’ll start from the heart of the neighborhood—Chenery and Diamond streets, choosing a route through the Canyon, and taking note of the time. I have also measured the distance by car, but not the exact route, of course. From the chosen intersection to the foot of Twin Peaks’ south peak is about 1.9 mile. Keeping our path as level as possible, we’re going to ascend from an elevation of about 200 feet to 922 feet. Get your compass bearings: North is up toward the Peaks; east is 90 degrees to your right. It’s likely to be windy, so take a jacket.

Follow this route and look about at all times to take in the surroundings; there are many things of interest along the way. We head west on Chenery to its end at Elk Street. Along the 800 block we can see several homes that were apparently initially constructed at a lower level than the street is now. I suspect that several streets in Glen Park must have been built up after the initial dirt roads were laid in.

We cross Elk Street and walk up several feet to the iron pipe entrance to Alms Road, the main road/trail in Glen Canyon Park. We’re going to follow the roadway to its end near the Silver Tree building and continue when it becomes a trail. Recently the City has decided that this trail is to be improved and extended all the way up to Twin Peaks as a segment of the Parks-to-Parks Trail, but that’s a long way off.

First, have a look at the interesting conceptual mural of Glen Park on the north wall of the Recreation Center. Then turn around, and just 75 yards further (about 75 giant steps) look down into the North Fork of Islais Creek. Green leaves cover the entrance to the great Islais Creek underground pipe intake that goes all the way to Islais Creek Channel west of 3rd Street near the bay, where it oozes out from under a Union Pacific railroad bridge. Just above the intake is “Canyon Dam”—a barrier intended to slow down floodwaters.

At this point, we could take the “rough” path to the Silver Tree School on the west bank, but we’d miss other things. Up along the creek, continuing for many yards on the east bank to the school, are plantings of native species, representing hours of work by many Friends of Glen Canyon Park volunteers and Recreation and Park personnel. Along the road/trail we must read the many information boards about the Park’s habitats. We might even encounter a garter snake wriggling along. The low, leafy trees here are willows, interspersed with blackberries and other riverine bushes. As we reach the school, there are two bridges, but we’ll stick to the main path straight ahead. The path on the west side will rejoin the main one, not to worry—it is fine to walk, but on another day.

Meanwhile, we come to a little swamplet, crossed by a pretty wooden causeway and a bridge. Below, we see a pool, some very small fish, and water spiders. This is the source of most of water that is allowed to trickle along Islais Creek. Years ago the City, in its great lack of wisdom, forced most of the natural streams along here into an underground pipe because they also take on overflows from the hills above. We can hear them gurgling in the big covered culvert jutting up near the bridge. Just beyond the bridge we encounter the first of two trails leading up, up, up to the streets and Safeway. Don’t go there.

Look up to our right. We see giant slabs of the Franciscan rock formation, once fine silica sand and red iron oxide that sifted to the bottom of the Pacific, before they were scooped up by our westward-moving North American plate. See the two slabs that look like giant hands sliding by each other? It’s called “slickensides” (old German) and means a smoothly polished surface caused by frictional movement between rocks as one fell off. Did you know that all this is quietly lifted about a centimeter a year as we speak? Spooky, huh?

Along the trail grow patches of foot-long, dark green, spiny bear grass, used by the Ohlone Indians for basketry. Shortly we come to the second path up and the junction of the west path from the school. We, however, keep going forward, but the path is seriously rougher. We duck overhanging branches, and step high over huge roots. Caution, don’t be per-
The San Francisco Police Department’s plan to make Ingleside Station the model for a pilot police reform project in the city is slowly taking root, with some changes already evident in Glen Park.

Officers walk the beat in downtown Glen Park a couple nights a week during the early evening hours when commuters carrying laptops and listening to iPods pour out of the BART station and are targeted by muggers. Police also have deployed an undercover team in an attempt to catch the culprits involved in a series of late-night street robberies in Glen Park and adjacent Noe Valley.

Uniformed patrol officers can be found more often riding—albeit for short distances—the Municipal Railway lines crisscrossing the neighborhood, and the Police Department has stepped-up enforcement efforts in a known hotbed of criminal activity on Addison Street, located on the northern edge of our neighborhood.

While none of those police activities alone can be considered groundbreaking, they are examples of the San Francisco Police Department’s experiment to pinpoint resources where they’re needed most and quickly—with crime-data analysis and community demand driving the decisions.

As part of the pilot plan, the Ingleside police district—whose 6.5 square-mile territory includes Glen Park—recently was assigned an in-house crime analyst, and created a resource unit in which a lieutenant and his team try to solve problems by working with the public and other arms of the SFPD and government agencies.

For instance, if pedestrians are getting robbed on dark streets, the resource team can push the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to install more street lights. The public health and building departments can be called in if drug dealers and addicts take over a vacant property.

Ingleside Station’s commanding officer, Capt. David Lazar, said the key to success is to first identify the problem and then “put together a plan.” One goal is to reduce the amount of time officers spend running from call to call, and devote more time to crafting long-term solutions.

The reform effort, recommended by outside consultants tapped by SFPD brass to review police operations and map out a strategy for improvements, dovetails with the vision of San Francisco’s new police chief, George Gascon. Lazar was given command of Ingleside Station in April, 2009 by Gascon’s predecessor, Chief Heather Fong, to kickstart the reforms.

Lazar reported to the Police Commission on July 29 that most major crimes were down in the Ingleside police district during the first six months of this year, compared with the same period last year. Homicides were down 64 percent, with five recorded between January and June. Robberies, with 230 reported through June 2009, were down 21 percent.

The number of aggravated assaults and burglaries dropped, too. Of the major categories of crime, only rape was up, with 13 reported in the first half of 2009, four more than during the same period last year. Lazar’s report did not break down the data by neighborhood.

Ingleside Station recently completed a community survey that asked people about their crime-related concerns—robbery, burglary and theft topped the responses—and their top priorities for policing. Expanding foot patrols had widespread support. Of the 1,201 surveys received, 11.1 percent came from people who live, work or own businesses in Glen Park. The City controller’s office is preparing a more thorough analysis of the findings.

As part of the SFPD revamp, individual officers and their superiors at the station level will be held more accountable and will be expected to take more initiative in making San Francisco safer. Interacting more with the public is key, Lazar said. To that end, all officers at Ingleside now have e-mail accounts and voicemail, which they are expected to check every work day and respond, if needed.

“This is going to be a great addition to community engagement,” Lazar said.

Still in its infancy, the verdict is out on whether the experiment will succeed.
Sock Town? Ticket Tree? The Glenridge Experience

“Look, Mame. The worm likes me!”

This probably isn’t a lesson you’d expect a 4-year-old to share after a day at preschool, but such show-and-tells are commonplace at Glen Canyon’s Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School.

Each weekday, nearly 60 San Francisco children walk to the 39-year-old rustic preschool, which includes hikes to legendary Sock Town. Here, 3-, 4- and 5-year olds scamper over tree limbs sequestered along paths populated by California native plants with such magical names as Monkey Flower and Coyote Brush.

“It’s in the woods, across trails and bridges,” says 6-year old Vittoria Clark, class of ’08, who lives on Chenery Street. “We call it Sock Town because one time, Glenridge friends found a sock there.”

The preschoolers won’t glimpse any trolls beneath Sock Town bridges, meet Frogs or Toads—or Ratty, Mole and Badger, for that matter. And they certainly won’t bump into funny little Hobbits with furry feet along gurgling creeks, but there’s a good chance they’ll come upon a caterpillar or two with fuzzy bodies beside Islais Creek.

“The children find caterpillars on willow branches,” says Mame Campbell-Salin, who for 13 years has been Glenridge’s program director. “The kids pick fresh leaves for them, then watch the caterpillars eat the leaves, observing each get bigger before it reaches its chrysalis form.”

While this may not be Fantasyland, it is nonetheless a sylvan sanctuary filled with fantastic natural wonders.

“The canyon is vast,” says Campbell-Salin, who has lived near it for 20 years on Joost Street. “Imagine a 3-year-old seeing a towering tree, a 4-year-old climbing a boulder, or a 5-year-old fashioning a dam that teaches lessons about erosion.”

With two bachelor’s degrees and nearly 40 college credits in early childhood development, Campbell-Salin has nurtured a Glenridge curriculum that continues to attract parents from diverse backgrounds, all of whom embrace the thought that Mother Nature will play a role in their children’s early learning.

“Glenridge is everything I could have wished for,” says Katherine Murphy, who lives on Sussex Street and whose daughter, Rosa, class of ’07, and son, Linus, class of ’09, know Glenridge well. “My kids found salamanders, snakes and bugs, watched red-tail hawks, checked out baby owls and climbed trees,” she says.

“What parents should know,” says Campbell-Salin, “is there is very little demarcation between the books in our classrooms and the instructional time our children live and breathe in the canyon. Glen Canyon is not a field trip—it is our backyard.”

Grace Clark, mother of Vittoria and 4-year-old Sanders, class of ’10, who lives on Chenery Street, echoes Campbell-Salin: “You might expect a good preschool to take children on a field trip once or twice a year to a place they can splash through mud or pick wild blackberries. Our kids do these things daily by taking only a few steps outside the school doors.”

And as experienced instructors know, kids are often the best teachers. Campbell-Salin and her staff encourage family age grouping that combines Glenridge’s older children with its younger ones. “Senior...CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Glen Park Plan
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While there’s no guarantee that by the end everyone who participated in the public meetings will get what they want, the City is legally required to listen.

The environmental review will not be completed until the full Glen Park Community Plan is updated with neighborhood input so that the plan can be evaluated in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIR must be “certified” before the City can adopt the Community Plan.

Under the environmental review process, the City must address the project’s potential impacts on such things as traffic, parking and noise and, if significant, how they could be mitigated. However, there’s no legal mandate that every anticipated problem will be resolved.

Downtown

This is of course runs straight into the NIMBY and BNAANA phenomenon, as in Not in My Backyard and Build Nothing at All Never, Anywhere.

A debate already has started among the 260 or so participants on the Glen Park Bulletin Board electronic e-mail list. (See the e-mail listing on page 22 for instructions on signing up.) A number of residents decried the entire process, saying the City will just do what it wants and this is all window dressing. Several of the most vocal said things are fine as they are (or as they were 10 or 20 years ago, depending on when that person moved here) and that nothing should change. Others applauded the City’s efforts to encourage higher-density housing near BART.

BART Development Undecided

As for the BART development project, six developers have submitted what amounts to conceptual plans, said BART representative Bruno Pegues. BART is evaluating the developers’ finances, references and previous community interactions. BART then will create a short list of contenders.

Even at this point, BART has not decided whether to transform the parking lot. “There has been no determination whether development will be pursued on the BART lot. Development is one of the alternatives being considered in the planned collaborative study conducted by City Planning, BART, SFMTA [San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency] and the Glen Park Association,” Pegues wrote in an e-mail to D.K. Valentine, the Glen Park Association’s chair of zoning and planning.

Two years ago, students participating in a design competition at UC Berkeley created development plans for the Glen Park BART parking lot. The winning entry envisioned 58 units of housing. That student design caused a big stir in the neighborhood and took on a life of its own. But Valentine said the mock-up has no official standing and is not under consideration by BART or the City.

The 2003 draft Community Plan contemplated 36 to 50 housing units for the BART lot, which if realized would far surpass the size of any existing developments in downtown Glen Park.

BART is not expected to move forward with any possible development until the Glen Park Plan planning process is completed.

Meanwhile, the City and BART are discussing how to spend $3 million in federal transit money that the late U.S. Rep. Tom Lantos secured to improve traffic, transit, pedestrian and bicycle circulation around the train station.

There’s a lot happening right now in Glen Park that will have a long reach into the future. There’s also plenty more opportunity for neighbors to weigh in, starting with the meeting on Sept. 15. So if you want the City to hear what you think should happen in Glen Park over the next 20 or so years, in terms of neighborhood infrastructure improvements and development, come to the meeting. Notices of future events will be posted on the Glen Park Association web site.
It’s a hard grape to grow, as you know. Right? It’s thin-skinned, temperamental, ripens early. It’s not a survivor like Cabernet, which can just grow anywhere and thrive even when it’s neglected. No, Pinot needs constant care and attention. You know?

And in fact it can only grow in these really specific, little, tucked away corners of the world. And only the most patient and nurturing of growers can do it, really. Only somebody who really takes the time to understand Pinot’s potential can coax it into its fullest expression. Then, oh its flavors, they’re just the most haunting and brilliant and thrilling.

– (Miles Raymond, played by Paul Giamatti, in “Sideways” (2004)

People in our area have all sorts of jobs—blue collar, white, green—and now, red collar? That would be Brian Mast and Jennifer Waits, Sunnyside’s only known pinot noir winemakers. They are the proprietors of Waits Mast Family Cellars.

If you’re baffled as to how you missed that vineyard cascading down a hilly slope on your morning jog, welcome to the 21st century.

The grapes from this year’s Waits Mast harvest have come from the Anderson Valley, where most California pinot noir is grown. The cellar resides at Crushpad, an urban winemaking company in a huge warehouse structure along the Third Street corridor.

By day, Brian works in public relations for a healthcare firm. Jennifer is a writer with a graduate degree in popular culture, who blogs about college radio on her web site, “Spinning Indie.” Other times, Brian and Jennifer preside over the process of winemaking, from vineyard to store shelf, from Crushpad, and from the home they share with their 3-year old daughter, Beatrice.

“My dad always drank beer and whatever was on sale,” said Brian, who grew up in South Bend, Indiana and moved to California in 1995. From this dubious legacy, Brian began going to wineries and tastings, and trying new wines. His passion ignited, he began reading more and visiting the Anderson Valley and Mendocino in the late ’90s.

He got hooked on Pinot Noir in 2001, after attending a pinot noir festival and a technical conference, and sharing dinners with winemakers from the Anderson Valley. “They were warm, friendly and collegial; they were from all walks of life—people who left corporate jobs, an opthalmologist, and so on. It fueled a lot of dreams.” By then, Brian and Jennifer, originally from Sunnyvale, were sharing experiences as a couple and joked about buying property and starting their own vineyard.

Pinot noir became their focus after Brian had a bottle of it from Kings Ridge in Oregon’s Willamette Valley. He tried more varieties from Oregon and California, especially the Anderson Valley, which has the ideal coastal climate and wind for growing pinot grapes. They found it to be a “food friendly” wine, pairing well with lots of foods, but also good to sip on its own. As opposed to cabernet, which is a “big wine,” pinot noir is accessible as an everyday wine, yet also has an elegant quality.

“The flavor of pinot noir differs depending on the region where it’s grown and made,” Brian continues. “The taste and smell are different. There are 47 different kinds of pinot. New Zealand pinot is herbal and earthy, with notes of thyme; Oregon’s has great acidity—it has the fruity flavors of cherry, strawberry and raspberry.” The overriding similarity among pinot noir, regardless of its history (provenance), is the cherry and berry

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Glenridge

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kids model proper behavior and leadership. When asked how she knows students are absorbing a curriculum rich in social and emotional learning and one that teaches negotiation skills, Campbell-Salin offers a textbook answer about assessment that would impress state superintendent of schools Jack O’Connell: “I hear older kids tell younger kids all about it.”

And what children mostly learn while in Campbell-Salin’s presence is that her domain is part of a larger neighborhood where people live in harmony with one another and their surroundings. “Only 1 percent of our families drive into Glenridge,” says Kathleen Tracey, who lives on Surrey Street and whose son, Henry, class of ’08, loved his Glenridge idyll. She believes the absence of cars has a salutary impact: “Foot traffic makes it safer for the children, dog walkers, joggers and birdwatchers.”

No rainy day sessions at Glenridge, either. “The children like nothing better than walking into the canyon on rainy days,” smiles Campbell-Salin.

Lisa Wayne, natural areas program director for San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, has a similar take, rain or shine. “Glenridge is a great opportunity for kids to connect with nature,” she says.

Glenridge, which began in 1970, is housed at Rec and Park’s Silver Tree Camp in the center of Glen Canyon Park. Within sight of rock formations that might challenge climbers used to ascending Yosemite’s Half Dome, Glenridge is, when all is said and done, little different from other educational institutions. It has its traditions, its rituals, even its Old Boys and Old Girls.

There’s the Ticket Tree, for instance, a soaring eucalyptus that dwarfs the children. For decades kids have cajoled their teachers into taking them to the mythic tree. “Someone goes behind the Ticket Tree,” says Vittoria Clark, “and gives another kid a leaf. There is a little hole in the tree and the person puts the “ticket” marking the beginning and ending of each day by putting the eucalyptus leaf on it.”

A childhood leukemia survivor, Howell rhapsodized the child, as a wondrous place: “It’s snowing willows,” rhapsodized the child, as one clearly destined for straight A’s in honors high school English.

On other occasions Campbell-Salin relaxes, surveys her storied surroundings and takes a longer timeout. “Having a child take minutes to show me a leaf that I stepped over—well, it forces me to take a deep breath,” she says.

But usually it all comes back to those worms and what they reveal about children’s growth over the span of one short year. “Lots of children are afraid of them for very long. Sometimes, though, she allows herself a brief respite, most recently recalling a time last spring when a little Glenridge girl waxed poetic while on a hike: “It’s snowing willows,” rhymed the child, as one clearly destined for straight A’s in honors high school English. Recreation directors are supposed to be doing six hours of programming a day. Everyone interested in our Glen Park recreation programs needs to convey to the Department the kinds of programs you want to see at our site.

Any concerns regarding our park can also be directed to Eric Anderson, the neighborhood service manager for our site. His e-mail is Eric.Anderson@sfgov.org.

The news regarding money to begin plans for the renovation of Glen Park is not so good. We were supposed to restart our community meetings this fall. These meetings are for putting together our master plan and doing some upgrades with the $5 million designated as phase I for Glen Park. However, the sale of the bonds has been postponed. At this time I do not know when we will be rescheduled to meet. Sale of the bonds could be postponed again.

If you have any issues you would like addressed, please contact me at moss3x@earthlink.net.
Wine Bar-Plus Envisioned for Chenery St. Storefront

For nearly two decades Tiffany’s, a wine and liquor shop operated by Tiffany Farr and her husband Paul, occupied the store at 678 Chenery St. When the Farrs, who own the building, sold the business, it became the Village Cellar. For the past six-plus years, the owners of the now-closed sushi restaurant Sangha held the lease.

Now the plan is to turn the space into a wine bar called Red and White, bringing the shop back full circle—but with a twist.

The new owners hope to open in October, if the “usual bumps in the road” get worked out, said Juliana Flores, who with her partner Peter Bell, will run the place. Red and White will be part wine cellar, part tasting bar and part lounge where patrons can enjoy light fare—artisanal cheeses, charcuterie and chocolate—that can be matched with a glass or two of wine.

“Green and positive” is how Flores envisions the new enterprise. From 60 to 75 percent of the wine on hand will be from California wineries, much of it “small-batch production” of 500 cases or less. Tastings will take a “California vs. the world sort of view,” she said, with perhaps 12 to 15 wines available by the glass at any one time. While they wait for the paperwork to sort itself out, the new proprietors are busy contacting wineries and vendors.

Although a lot of the details were still being worked out at press time, Red and White will probably be open six days a week, perhaps from noon to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends, Flores said. Shelving, a tasting bar and sofas with coffee tables will be added: “We want our customers to be comfortable, to just sink into couches and have a glass of wine.”

She sees the wine bar as a complement to, rather than competition for, other Glen Park’s other restaurants. People waiting for tables at the full-service restaurants could sip wine inside and in comfort. Commuters leaving the BART station could pick up a bottle to take home for dinner. Friends getting together would have an alternative to the places where coffee and tea dominate the choices.

In their longer-term plans are a wine club, with a bottle of red and one of white going to members every month. Since the site has a full kitchen, they plan to inaugurate monthly catered winemakers’ dinners. The twist is that the food will be matched to wines rather than the other way around.

Flores and Bell both have worked in advertising, so a wine bar is a new direction for them, although Flores says she’s had “an entrepreneurial itch for a few years.” Her mother lives on Arlington Street, so they know Glen Park well. When they realized the site was available, she said, “We just thought it was a perfect location and a perfect idea.”

They live just over the county line in the Westlake district of Daly City, and are expecting their first child in January. Asked about the challenge of starting up a wine bar while pregnant, Flores admitted, “I had to learn the art of spitting.”

Sangha Officially Closes

Caught off guard and dismayed, I read a sign in the window of Sangha a few months ago as I arrived at the Chenery Street restaurant for dinner.

The sign read: “We have decided to make some changes and we will reopen in the near future. Thank you for your patronage”.

“What?” I asked myself out loud—my husband and two friends also wondering what the sign really meant, and where we were going to get our sushi that night.

Being a lover of Japanese food and a frequent patron of Sangha, this was not good news. I thought, “My neighborhood Japanese joint is closed! Maybe for good? This can’t be true!”

I have sampled sushi all over the world, including in its birthplace, Tokyo, and I can truly say that Sangha’s menu—albeit limited—had some of the most eclectic, innovative Japanese fare I have had in San Francisco.

Our neighborhood seemed to embrace the food too, but perhaps not so much Sangha’s interior. Some diners could be heard commenting on its stark walls and “lack of warmth” and Yelp reviews mentioned the space’s “minimalist decor.”

But, along with some of my neighbors, I held high hopes that it was perhaps just growing pains for the restaurant and

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When Disaster Strikes, the NERTs Are Ready to Come to the Rescue

by Bonnee Waldstein

Glen Park has a number of citizens newly trained in emergency preparedness and response. They are graduates of a six-session class given by the San Francisco Fire Department, and they now officially join the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) organization.

Information about NERT training, including time and place, is available at www.sfgov.org/sffdnert.

The following are reflections of three NERT graduates:

Linda Wojciechowski
Farnum Street

Ready for the Big One? In June and July, about 45 San Francisco residents met at St. John’s School to participate in NERT training—that’s the acronym for Neighborhood Emergency Response Team.

You’ve seen the flyers over the years. You’ve seen the flyers over the years. This is the program that prepares citizens to respond effectively in a disaster. I’ve always wanted to do the training, and this was my first good opportunity. It’s presented by members of the San Francisco Fire Department, and was actually a lot of fun. We reviewed measures to take to prepare our homes for a major earthquake, something I had gotten lax about.

The course and guidebook offered lots of practical advice and lesser-known facts. For instance, did you know that if a tree falls on your house, the fire department will patch the damage to the roof, if possible, and lay a tarp down for you? They say they’d rather do that for you than rescue you from your own roof.

Know how to use your toilet if there’s no water running? The fire department has some excellent and practical solutions.

Care about your community? Of course you do, that’s why you’re reading this paper. NERT volunteers are trained to turn off utilities in case of a gas leak or water emergency. We can be there for you before the fire department or other first responders can get to each household. We’ve practiced putting out small fires and know how to work as a team. If there are injuries, NERT volunteers can perform “disaster medicine” and take steps that can save lives.

The SFFD speakers pointed out that in a major calamity, there won’t be enough emergency workers to go around, and they’ll be depending on volunteers to augment their efforts. Even if you learn the procedures to help yourself and your own family only, that’s significant. About 17,000 San Franciscans have been trained as NERT volunteers so far; the SFFD says that means they have 17,000 fewer people to worry about in a disaster.

Think you can’t do it? I was concerned that if I took NERT training I would obligate myself to doing something heroic in an emergency, maybe more than I could handle. But the trainers emphasize that each person should only do what he or she feels capable of doing well: “Don’t be a victim!”

And there are benefits: As a NERT trainee, you get discounts when purchasing safety equipment. You can join the Police Credit Union and get good rates on financial products. If you are hurt, you will be taken care of first, because you’ll be needed to help others. And, should there be a biological terrorist attack, NERT volunteers get first access to antidotes.

But most of all, you come out of the NERT training feeling ready to handle...

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NERT CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

an emergency, and to care for the people that are near you. Some NERT volunteers will manage people, others will give first aid. Some will be runners, bringing information between command centers. Some will take notes and keep records (very important!), and some will assess building damage, put out (very small) fires, comfort the injured, or mark hazards with caution tape.

We are all really capable people, and NERT training helps us focus our efforts to “do the most good for the most people”—that’s the NERT motto. The fire department trainers made the classes fun and stimulating, and it was great to see whole families participating. I definitely encourage you to become a part of this essential organization!

Carey Rutigliano
Everson Street

The anticipation and excitement had been building for months, or was it years? I had lost track, but all I knew at this point was it was finally here—NERT training in Glen Park. Training in Glen Park made it easy, as it was close to public transportation and near where I live.

So it began, six weeks of training covering a wide range of topics from identifying a potentially dangerous building to using a fire extinguisher and one of the most important parts, I felt: how to triage individuals after a disaster.

While the breadth of topics was extensive, the depth of the coursework was sufficient to teach me much of the basics, keeping me interested but not given so much material that I was overwhelmed and felt like I was cramming for a college exam. The textbook and practical application approach the San Francisco Fire Department teaches is ideal, especially with only six weeks in which to learn.

Certain things that we take for granted, such as turning off the gas after a disaster, we come to realize in the NERT class may not actually be the correct thing to do. I assumed, as so many people do, that if there is an earthquake you turn off the gas. But this is not completely true. Sure, there are times when you need to do so, but not simply because an earthquake strikes. There were so many lessons such as this that it made me wonder why more people don’t take these courses.

Many friends I spoke with thought that when you take this course that you are obligated to help in a disaster. I explained that while the SFFD, as well as many other City services, would appreciate the help of NERT volunteers during a crisis, you are by no means obligated to do anything.

Just being able to make yourself, your family and perhaps even your immediate neighbors safe would be a huge help to the SFFD. Imagine if one person on each block was NERT trained. What a relief to the SFFD that would be, allowing them to be able to deal with the more severe situations that will occur throughout our city. The best part is, the course training is free and the SFFD offers it at various locations and times during the year.

After the training was done and we received our certificates, our badges, and our equipment, I stopped for a second and realized how the SFFD is so selfless in what they do. They provide a service in a very professional and fun way—and I must say the fire fighters who presented the training were so enthusiastic about the course that it was contagious. I’ve long supported our firehouses in many ways, including a link on my Facebook page and handing out flyers at my neighborhood meetings. But it really hit me during the NERT training: How could San Francisco ever survive day to day, let alone during a natural disaster, without an organization such as the SFFD?

Receiving my badge meant as much to me, and made me as proud, as an actor receiving an Academy Award. Corny as it may sound, I want to make a difference in my city and with the help of the SFFD. Thank you to all and congratulations to all my fellow graduates.

Melanie Octaviano
Ney Street

The NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team) program is a six-week instructional course presented by the San Francisco Fire Department. The training teaches volunteers essential knowledge of the proper courses of action to take in the event of natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods, and terrorist attacks. The training is free and very enlightening.

As a resident of San Francisco where earthquakes are prevalent, I saw the clear benefits of knowing the material NERT provided. Luckily, during the quake of 1989, I was home with my father and my brother, who took care of the water, gas and electrical shutoffs, and consequently there was very little damage to our house. Now that my husband and I are planning on starting a family, I feel that it’s essential that I, myself, acquire this lifesaving knowledge.

NERT covers: basic search and rescue; simple triage; gas, water and electrical shutoff; fire and chemical safety; and vital information for terrorist attacks. I found triage, fire and chemical safety and terrorism the most interesting and useful.

Because I found knowing triage to be so advantageous, I chose to pursue certification in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), the use of AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and basic First Aid through the American Red Cross. The fire and chemical safety section of the NERT class taught me how to prevent a fire, how to approach one and how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

The terrorism section of the training was informative and it made me become more perceptive to my surroundings. The content that was discussed is beneficial for anyone living in a post 9/11 metropolitan area.

My final thought about NERT is that it is useful and the instructors are very helpful. I met very nice people and had fun learning very important information. I recommend NERT to anyone who wants to be self-sufficient and prepared for life’s emergencies.

One of multiple acts at a benefit for Bird & Beckett Books held at the Miraloma Clubhouse on Aug. 29.

Photo courtesy of Angela Bennett

Bookstore’s Birthday Bash:
Cool Jazz on a Warm Day

Over 150 came to the Miraloma Clubhouse on Saturday, Charlie “Bird” Parker’s birthday, to help celebrate the tenth anniversary of Bird and Beckett, a place many consider a cultural and community heart of Glen Park.

For more than eight straight hours, people flowed into the lodge to hear a continuous lineup of poets, writers, musicians and singers fill the wood-paneled hall with sounds of jazz, African beats, humor and words as people mingled, ate, talked and stared out the windows at the wild plants and flowers growing on the surrounding hills.

Nestled at the foot of Mount Davidson, on the rim of Glen Canyon Park, the Miraloma Clubhouse was built in the 1940s and over the decades has housed many community and family gatherings. Watching people mill around the room, the feeling was more like having fallen into a time pocket somewhere in the Midwest where a small, closely knit community was holding a local gathering of friends and neighbors to raise funds for something or someone, or just to celebrate—Blueberry Weekend, Summerfest or ... the anniversary of Bird and Beckett Books and Records.

For 10 years, Eric Whittington has been the sole proprietor of the bookstore. He has reshaped it from a small neighborhood bookstore focusing on women’s and feminist books into one that embraces broad cultural and litera-
Kids’ Programs Benefit From Festival Grants

by Elisabeth Weise

It seemed most of Glen Park turned out on April 26 for the Glen Park Festival. But the 2,000-plus attendees did more than have fun, they did good. The Festival raised $5,000 for local children’s programs. Last month the Festival Committee distributed its grants:

- St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church above Glen Park on Diamond Heights got $1,000 to support its kindergarten-through-fifth grade Si Se Puede/St. Aidan’s Way after-school program.
- Escuela Pachamama, a small, private Spanish Waldorf-inspired preschool that has a sliding-scale tuition, just opened in Glen Park. It was granted $500 for educational materials and supplies.
- St. Paul’s School, the Catholic preschool-through-eighth grade school on Church Street, was granted $500 for a bike rack.
- Fairmount Elementary, the public kindergarten-through-fifth grade Spanish-immersion school on Chenery Street, was granted $500 for playground equipment.
- Glen Park Branch Library, which serves all children in the neighborhood, was granted $1,000 to add to its graphic novel (manga) collection and to support children’s programming.
- Glenridge, the cooperative preschool that has operated in Glen Canyon since 1970 (see Page 9 for a story about it) was granted $750 for classroom furniture and educational materials.

The numbers add up to only $4,250, because although $5,000 was raised, not enough applications were received to give it all out this year.

And put it on your calendar now: the next Glen Park Festival will be held Sunday, April 25, 2010. If you’d like to help with planning, contact inquiries@glenparkfestival.com.

The Trumpet Sounds

Several times a week, Glen Park residents sometimes imagine they’re hearing the sound of trumpets drifting along our streets and byways. It’s neither the Angel Gabriel, nor auditory hallucinations. It’s just our local trumpeter, Maguire Mealy, a young Glen resident who has lived at the intersection of Surrey and Lippard pretty much all his life.

Mealy is a junior at Lick-Wilmmerding High School; he says he has been studying music since 4th grade. Tall and slender and very much animated, he practices every day. His passion for music involves him in quite a few activities.

He is a member of the San Francisco Youth Orchestra, a gathering of some 75 students from all over the city. They rehearse every Saturday during the school year, presenting their music in March, May and November in Davies Symphony Hall. Readers can check the dates of these concerts, which are always published in the datebooks of local papers.

Mealy also is a member of one of three jazz bands sponsored by his school, which gives presentations (not concerts) sporadically—again, check your paper.

He believes his ability to improvise in this style is important.

An informal quartet of trumpeters is yet another of his musical interests. You may have heard their sounds on some Sunday afternoons. Mealy (and the others) choose to rehearse in his bedroom at the rear of the home—with the window open—producing a lot better sound than being bottled up in a closed room. Their music comes from arrangements of well-known classical passages arranged for quartet. They hope to get some performance time at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church on Diamond Heights. He believes an excerpt from a Bach chorale might be just the thing for a church service. I’ve heard it from them: well played.

I asked if he had considered SOTA (School of The Arts) for studying music. He replied quite strongly that he’d rather not spend all day studying music, but wants to become acquainted with other subjects as well.

Mealy is an inspiration to other San Francisco young people with an ear for music. To some of his neighbors, his trumpet notes wafting through the air on random Sundays are a reason to keep their own windows open.
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check it out at the library

We have had a busy summer at the Glen Park Library. We had the highest sign-ups yet for our kids’ Summer Reading Program. I want to thank all the kids and teens who signed up this year and participated in our “Read it and Green it” program.

A good tie-in to our green summer reading program is our new ecocard library card. To avoid adding more plastic materials into the waste stream, the free corn-based ecocard will be offered only to new library-card applicants. It can be purchased as a replacement library card for a small fee. However, it does not have the small keychain attachment that our other cards have.

It is time again for the San Francisco Library’s “One City One Book” selection. It is Alive in Necropolis by Doug Dorst. His thriller, set in San Francisco and the cemeteries of Colma, is one-part crime novel, one-part ghost story and tinged with humor and heart.

Among many colorful characters, the book features a rookie Colma cop navigating a world of both the dead and alive, and a San Francisco teen struggling with his own version of reality. There are a lot of fun activities to tie in with the book, such as a bike tour of the Colma cemetery and many readings by the author. More details can be found at: http://sfpl.org/news/ocob/onecity. htm.

As I look to the fall, I am excited about our upcoming events. On Oct. 8 at 4:30 p.m. we will participate in the nationwide “Read for the Record” program for children of all ages. This year’s book is Eric Carle’s The Very Hungry Caterpillar. This year we will have a reading of the book and a raffle for copies of the book, and the kids will help make a giant caterpillar!

On Oct. 17 at 3 p.m. we will have a program for parents about choosing and improving public schools in San Francisco. This program can help parents navigate the application process for the public schools in the city.

We are also pleased to present another round of SAT Intensive Workshops that will be five weeks long, starting in mid-October. If you have questions or want to register, please contact Marla at mbergman@sfpl.org.

The Community Calendar on Page 24 of this issue lists more library events. To find information about all our programs and other library news, please visit our Glen Park Library Blog at glenparklibrarysfpl.blogspot.com.

Glen Park Branch Library
2825 Diamond Street (near Bosworth)

Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-6
Wednesday 12-8
Thursday 1-7
Friday 1-6
Saturday 1-6
Sunday – Closed

Denise Sanderson is the Glen Park Branch Librarian.

Shakespeare!

On Oct. 24 at 2 p.m. the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival will present an abridged version of Hamlet at the Glen Park Library. Light refreshments will be provided.

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Denise Sanderson is the Glen Park Branch Librarian.
in glen canyon park

by Alma Hecht

With Halloween around the corner, costumes, candies and goblins are being gathered and homes are being decorated. In the same spirit, in Glen Canyon our native pumpkin spiders are busy decorating grassy fields and shrubs.

Pumpkin spiders, *Araneus trifolium*, with showy orb webs and colorful bodies are easy to spot. They are 3 to 5 inches—the females are larger than the males, pale yellow-brown to nearly black with white or yellow spots. Like all spiders they have four pairs of legs and each leg has seven segments. Similar to birds, the males are brightly colored to attract a mate, while the females are camouflaged to avoid predation.

The ultimate purpose of the spider-web is capturing prey, and the pumpkin spiders’ geometrical orb web is the ultimate trap. Spiders feed on flies, bees, mosquitoes and other insects. In spring, when young plant leaves host a wide array of insects, the spiders have a feast.

Also at that time, baby pumpkin spiders are born, releasing fine threads of silk that carry them off on the wind, a journey called ballooning. Wherever the baby spider drops from the sky and lands will be where it starts its new life.

Eco-Notes

As a neighbor of the canyon, your garden can provide spiders with places to string their webs or to jump, in exchange for which they will help to naturally control insects. Coyote brush—*Baccharis pilularis*—is a good choice. Coyote brush offers early shows of fluffy cream or yellow flowers. It grows to between 3 and 6 feet, depending on your conditions, and is clay-silt and drought tolerant. The deep roots are excellent for erosion control on steep hillsides. You can even aesthetically prune coyote brush into a garden focal point.

Oak trees are another favorite of insect-seekers. In the canyon we have large coast live oaks, *Quercus agrifolia*, and occasional smaller tanbark oaks, *Lithocarpus densiflorus*. With our compact garden spaces, a tanbark oak or a tree that evokes the oak, the coast silk-tassel, *Garrya eliptica*, would be a good choice.

Silk-tassel trees grow to 15-feet tall and in December are adorned with elegant catkins that light up the garden like strings of shiny pearls. Also drought and clay-soil tolerant, silk-tassel trees are easy to grow and under most circumstances are pest free.

Remember that Friends of Glen Canyon meets 9 a.m. to noon every Wednesday morning and every third Saturday of the month. Just show up with work gloves and enjoy this wonderful way to be part of your community.

Alma Hecht is a member of Friends of Glen Canyon Park, a neighbor and owner of Second Nature Design. She will answer design and plant questions, particularly on native plants’ adaptability to garden settings. E-mail her at alma@secondnature.bz. Also an arborist, Alma would be pleased to help you structure your trees into garden focal points. Please visit her web site, www.secondnature.bz.

digging the dirt:

news from the garden club

“Garden Growing Wild” is one of the patterns in Christopher Alexander’s classic book, *A Pattern Language*. He says that a garden should not be overly formal, because wild is healthier and more mindful. The natural processes will help the gardener learn more profoundly about nature. If that is the case, then I am learning a whole lot from my garden.

If nobody sees your garden, it’s OK to let it be a messy jungle, like mine. But the minute someone steps into it, you might want to spruce it up a bit. Your guests will notice your efforts.

Pay attention to places people will gather, such as a sunny spot, or a shady one, given the weather predicted for the day. Look for the obvious flaws—dead plants or broken limbs. Pull tall or obvious weeds, but don’t get carried away!

Focus on the flowers, because they will be eye-catching. Fill any holes with flowers. Deadhead all your flowers. You’re allowed to take off some leaves to make the flowers stand out, too.

Trim up the edges between beds, lawn and hardscape: A neat appearance makes the garden look cared for. Stake up any flopping stems to make some space. If you sweep the patio or deck, you will make the entire garden look better. Wipe down outdoor furniture and put away items that aren’t necessary for the party. Drain small water features, clean out any debris they may contain and add fresh water.

Now, to enhance: Make a color display on an outdoor table, and make the gathering spot lush. Consider using fragrant plants. You can do this with seasonal color in all those pots you’ve been hoarding!

Focus on plants you love. An entire plastic container can be planted and mulched over if you water every day and plant properly after your gathering.

It is a good idea to apply a fresh layer of mulch; this smells good, too. But if yours is a “garden growing wild,” like mine, it will be too hard to see the ground to do that.

As garden blogger Travis Rumsey says, “Whatever you do, have fun; and do it because you love it. People will pick up on your enthusiasm and enjoy the garden for what it is: a reflection of the gardener who created it.”

Susan Evans is a member of the Glen Park Garden Club, which welcomes new members. E-mail her at ske1@pacbell.net.

They’re Back! In Fall 2005, the parrots of Telegraph Hill visited Glen Park. Beginning in late August, photographer and printmaker Trish Foschi began hearing and seeing them fly by her home near Swiss and Sussex. She was finally able to capture them frolicking on a nearby tree.
on patrol in glen park

In Memory of 
Officer Michael Walsh
(1955-2009)

Glen Park Plan Meetings

The City is seeking public comment on the related but separate planning process and environmental review process. The Planning Department held the first in a series of community meetings in April, followed by another in July, minutes of which can be found at http://bit.ly/EIRmeeting. Community meetings will continue through the end of 2010.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 15, 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the Glen Park Recreation Center.

Twin Peaks Walk
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

suaded to take any side paths—they lead nowhere.

Now we’re out of the woods, balancing along the sloping hillside trail. Above us are great pillars supporting the homes on Turquoise Way. Before long we’re passing another culvert cover. This is the end of the Glen Canyon trail, so we turn right and walk easily up the concrete ramp and 13 steps to Turquoise Way, with its stately cookie-cutter homes individualized by color. Turn left (north) on Turquoise; right leads you toward the SFPD Police Academy and Diamond Heights Boulevard.

From Turquoise, past the front yards of more homes perched on the rim of the Canyon, we turn left to the end of Amethyst Way and climb a short dirt path to Portola Drive at the east end of the MacAteer campus of School of the Arts. We’re taking the short route to Twin Peaks, remember? So we turn right (east) on Portola and cross to Burnett Street. Then we gear down! It’s three steep blocks up to Crestline Drive. Left (northwest) another three blocks. Stop. On our right is a thin little Muni bus stop sign for the No. 37 line; on our left is a trail marker that declares “Summit.”

We’re almost there. A well-constructed and maintained trail with 95 big timber steps rises the equivalent of nine stories by my estimation. Do not stray from the path into the poison oak! Up to the road circling the Peaks. These are actually triplets, not twins. Rest, water, then take the last 126 steps to the summit. Take pictures and be ecstatic at the 360-degree view.

Elapsed time, about an hour. Tired? The 37 bus goes the other direction, sorry, down to Market Street.

But on over the top is another short, stepped trail down to the road, followed by a short distance to a stepped cutoff. From here it’s downhill on Twin Peaks Boulevard to Portola, O’Shaughnessy and Glen Park—less than 45 minutes from the top.

Uphill along O’Shaughnessy’s paved bike path has been seriously neglected, and it isn’t the prettiest sight. The pretty evergreen and fragrant bushes that were deemed non-native have been killed and left to dry up, or were simply chopped up and left in piles, collecting years of trash and becoming a fire hazard with not a sign of native plant replacement. Shame.

Along O’Shaughnessy’s east bank spread two giant evergreens. Some years ago a rough, primitive path led from the southmost tree down to the picnic grounds behind the Silver Tree school, passing a clear freshwater spring dripping into a concrete catchment. This path has been cut off and obstructed at both ends, so we must walk all the way down O’Shaughnessy before we can enter the park at the end of Bosworth Street, and cross past the Rec Center and tennis courts to Elk and Chenery for one last park experience.

Glen Canyon Park belongs to the whole city and should also be accessible to residents of Miraloma Park above, west of O’Shaughnessy. With a little effort, it would be a perfect route for an accessible trail for those residents and a welcome alternative path into the Canyon. Rec and Park is planning improvements to Glen Canyon Park; this could be one of them.

★ DANCE UNDER THE STARS! ★

Bring your kids and yourself to
Fairmount Elementary School’s
Baile Familiar
(Family Dance)

Friday, Sept. 25, 6-9 pm at Fairmount School 65 Chenery St.

Dinner, entertainment, dancing and salsa lessons are included in the ticket price. Roses, raffle tickets and family portraits will be available for an additional donation. Parking will be limited, so please consider walking.

Dinner will be served from 6:15-7:15 pm.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Jennifer and Brian have traveled to New Zealand to try the local pinot noir first-hand. A pilgrimage is planned to Burgundy, a 30-mile swath in eastern France, which is the motherland of all pinot noir. But Brian's all-time favorite is Amber Ridge from the Russian River valley.

In reading about do-it-yourself wineries, they found out about Crushpad and visited their barrel tasting open house in 2005. They discovered the encouraging news that they didn’t need to buy a vineyard to become winemakers. At that point, their winemaking fantasies began to take on reality. Best of all, they could stay right where they were. Crushpad sources grapes from many vineyards up and down California. Jennifer is impressed with the quality of their fruit and their high-end approach: “They’re serious, attentive, really involved. You’re directly processing with the winemaker.”

As clients of Crushpad, Brian and Jennifer select the wine from barrel samples of pinot noir. They choose the vineyard. They get reports from the vineyard about the sugar content of the grapes and when to pick them. A winemaker at Crushpad works with them to make a winemaking plan—for example, to use more or less new oak in the barrel, how long to keep it in the barrel, how long to keep it in the bottle before releasing it for sale. They visit Crushpad periodically to taste and see how the wine is progressing, and to make their determinations.

The wine is made in small batches. One barrel produces 12 cases, or 300 bottles. Brian and Jennifer started with one barrel in 2005. Two years later they went commercial with Crushpad, which requires a two-barrel minimum, and which means Crushpad handles all the technical details that vintners with day jobs can’t attend to: They work out the details of starting the winery; deal with red tape registering the wine label for approval with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which regulates the industry; handle the legalities of where you can sell and ship wine. They provide the infrastructure, shipping and logistics of making and selling the wine, and commercial consulting for marketing the finished product.

Crushpad is developing a new project in the city—the community crush, where a neighborhood pools some money and gets together to make a barrel of wine, bearing the label of that neighborhood. They had a rush of work getting their web site up and running. On it, Jennifer blogs about process and events. Brian explains, “The more we make, the more time we have to put into selling it. It’s a big investment of time and money to be at tasting events. The last big event was Pinot Days at Fort Mason at the end of June, where there were over 200 different producers.”

At this point, Jennifer and Brian characterize their venture as a labor of love. They want to keep making good wine, and more each year, and be able to sell it and have a self-funded operation. While waiting for this to happen, they treasure this passion they can share, especially aesthetically, while pursuing their separate interests and responsibilities. Their long-term fantasy is for their wine to become full-time winemakers.

Available now at Canyon Market the pinot is selling very well. The wine is made in small batches. One barrel produces 12 cases, or 300 bottles. Brian and Jennifer started with one barrel in 2005. Two years later they went commercial with Crushpad, which requires a two-barrel minimum, and which means Crushpad handles all the technical details that vintners with day jobs can’t attend to: They work out the details of starting the winery; deal with red tape registering the wine label for approval with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which regulates the industry; handle the legalities of where you can sell and ship wine. They provide the infrastructure, shipping and logistics of making and selling the wine, and commercial consulting for marketing the finished product.

Crushpad is developing a new project in the city—the community crush, where a neighborhood pools some money and gets together to make a barrel of wine, bearing the label of that neighborhood. (Which grape would be the Glen Park standard bearer?)

With all that Crushpad does, what’s left for Brian and Jennifer to do? Plenty. The most important thing, and what thrills them most, is the creative aspect. From the vineyard they’ve chosen, they are provided different clones of pinot noir. In a blending session at Crushpad, they determine the exact combination of the clones by testing various combinations blended in small percentages by a pipette. They’ve tested up to eight versions.

Since going commercial last fall, they’re spending more time at marketing and tasting events. There’s a festival every year, which includes a technical conference, where they pour their wine for other winemakers. It’s especially rewarding when they do this for a table full of highly respected winemakers.

A Hein vineyard batch from Mendocino has just been bottled. It’s their most elegant and balanced wine and should be available by March 2010. At Crushpad, Jennifer has documented every step with her digital camera, as the process unfolds in an assembly line, from the wine pouring into the bottles, the insertion of the cork, setting on the foil and attaching the label. Then she lovingly places each finished bottle upside down into the case. Being a musically obsessed cultural expert, Jennifer has the idea that she will number each bottle, the way another icon, the vinyl record, is sometimes done today.

The blend they’re working on for release in Spring 2010 is from the La Encantada vineyard in the Santa Rita hills, consisting of small clusters of intense berries, and for that reason, they want it to be their boldest, most intense pinot yet.

The challenge is to make a decision not on how it tastes today, but how it will probably taste in a number of months—when the chalkiness of the tannins and the puckery acidity will combine to form the next Waits.Mast pinot noir. “You don’t want it to be perfect today,” advises Brian. The tannins and the acidity are the qualities that provide the structure of the wine and help it retain its fruitiness. Brian and Jennifer are trying for a one- to five-year life for a bottle, rather than 10 or 20 years.

“Should we bottle it now or should we wait?” Jennifer wonders. That decision will be deferred until they get back from vacation in Ireland. Jennifer will be taking along that most rare of books, a guide to Irish wineries. For information online, visit www.waitsmast.com or www.crushpadwine.com.

Sangha Closes continued from page 13 it would reopen in a few weeks, maybe a month, tops.

No such luck. After a year-and-a-half run, from December 2007 to May 2009, our neighborhood gem, the ever-so-eclectic Japanese-Latin-fusion eatery was closed for good.

Sangha’s co-owner, Rica López, who also owns the ModernPst store, told the Glen Park News he couldn’t comment on the closing just now. But whatever the reason, the loss is a sad state of culinary affairs for me and other foodies in Glen Park and beyond. Ah, for those jalapeño corn fritters!
McGuire Real Estate is pleased to announce the affiliation of **Glen Park's #1 agent Howard Reinstein** at its Noe Valley office.

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20 Year Glen Park Home Owner  
Partner Chenery Park Restaurant

All up-to-date Glen Park sold prices are available at  
www.glenparkneighbors.com
real estate in glen park

by Vince Beaudet

The real estate market in Glen Park has been busy this summer, with many homes continuing to sell above the asking price. The following 21 residential properties sold in the neighborhood since May:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>List Price</th>
<th>Sold Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>162 Arbor</td>
<td>$649,000</td>
<td>$710,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>258 Arlington</td>
<td>$979,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>494 Arlington</td>
<td>$519,000</td>
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<td>954 Chenery</td>
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<td>$1,495,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>130 Chilton</td>
<td>$649,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>191 Chilton</td>
<td>$479,000</td>
<td>$510,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883 Church</td>
<td>$898,000</td>
<td>$853,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58 Digby</td>
<td>$1,580,000</td>
<td>$1,460,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 Everson</td>
<td>$1,849,000</td>
<td>$1,849,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Laidley</td>
<td>$2,449,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>158 Laidley #2</td>
<td>$299,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>158 Laidley #4</td>
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<td>165 Randall</td>
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<td>218 Roanoke</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>98 Whitney</td>
<td>$679,000</td>
<td>$717,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Realtor Vince Beaudet is a Glen Park resident who works for Herth Real Estate. He can be reached at 861-5222 ext. 333 or vincebeaudet@herth.com

Glen Park E-mail Lists

The Glen Park Association hosts a free electronic mail list open to all Glen Park residents. It is moderated by membership coordinator Heather World and consists of a weekly calendar and news update, with very occasional late-breaking news stories and police updates. To subscribe, send e-mail to glenparkassociation-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Also, don’t forget the all-new Glen Park Association web site at www.glenparkassociation.org.

Other neighborhood lists include:

- Ingleside Police Station Crime Report
  Straight from the desk of Capt. Denis O’Leary, via e-mail.
  To receive the daily Ingleside Station Newsletter please send an e-mail to: InglesideStationNewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

- Glen Park Parents
  Over 700 families in Glen Park and environs. Includes groups for new parents and parents-to-be. Moderated and spam-free.
  http://groups.yahoo.com/group/glenparkparents/

- Glen Park Expectant Parents group
  E-mail nvkamath@yahoo.com for information.

- Gay Glen Park
  A low-traffic list for gay and lesbian residents, their friends and families. Moderated and spam-free.
  http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gayglenpark/

- Glen Park Dog Owners
  gpdog-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

- Glen Park-Fairmount Heights Neighbors Association
  gpfn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Our skilled team of remodelers offers design/build projects with our licensed, in-house architect, or general contractor services in collaboration with your architect/designer.

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- for Small Businesses: Answers to help envision the possibilities of a space and how it will serve your needs.
- for Real Estate Brokers: Information to help you build targeted marketing strategies for your listings.

Kevin Wallace offers on-site consultations for prospective properties, providing expert, in-depth, local knowledge.

Community Calendar

continued from page 24

- Literary Talks: Last Sundays. Sept. 27 - 2 pm, Walker Brents III explores the idea of India in the Western literary imagination.

Special Events:

  - Sunday, Sept. 13, 2 pm - Tales of Bukowski & the late '60s L.A. Poetry Scene, as told by key poet/participants Linda King, Neeli Cherkovski & Michael Shepler.
  - Wednesday, Sept. 23, 7 pm - Two exceptional poets: Diane Di Prima, SF poet laureate, & Rachel Guido De Vries.
  - Sunday, Sept. 27, 3 pm - Minal Hajratwala presents her book Leaving India: My Family’s Journey from Five Villages to Five Continents.
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Glen Park Association
Quarterly meetings are held in January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Annual dues of just $10 support the Association’s important work on behalf of the neighborhood.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7–9 pm, Glen Park Recreation Center.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
Meetings and Plant Restoration Work Parties: Third Saturday of each month, 9 am–noon.


Meet behind the Recreation Center. Tools, gloves and instruction provided. Learn about botany and ecology, exercise your green thumb, enjoy camaraderie, examine public lands management issues.

Weekly Work Parties: Every Wednesday, 9 am–noon. For the current week’s meeting place contact Richard Craib, 648-0862.

To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park or learn more about their activities, contact Richard Craib at 648-0862 or Jean Conner at 584-8576.

Spider Walk: Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 am. Free. Meet behind the Rec Center. Academy of Sciences curator Darrell Ubick leads an exciting walk, seeking rarely seen, elusive arachnid denizens of the canyon.

Geology Walk: Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 am. Free. Retired geologist Neal Faye will explain the formation of Glen Canyon, the composition of our native rock, the Franciscan formation of radiolarian chert, and will discuss visual phenomena in local outcrops.

Bird Walk: Sunday, Nov. 15, 9 am. Free. Audubon member, dedicated bird watcher and fabulous guide David Armstrong again guides us through Glen Canyon, searching out the rare and unusual. Two sightings this spring may mean that winds or climate changes are affecting wildlife habits or routes. Bring your binoculars.

Pancakes in the Park: Sunday, Nov. 15, 10:30 am. $5. Following David’s Bird Walk, stick around for a fully prepared breakfast and coffee: OJ, sausage and pancakes.

SFPD Community Forums
Third Tuesday of every month, 7 pm. During even months—February, April, etc.—meetings are held at Ingleside Police Station, John Young Way off San Jose Avenue. In odd months meetings rotate among various community locations.

For details call the station at 404-4000, or subscribe to the captain’s daily e-mail newsletter at david.lazar@sf.gov.

All residents are encouraged to participate in these informative monthly Community Relations Forums hosted by Capt. David Lazar. Keep up to date on neighborhood police issues, get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe.

Next dates and locations:
- Sept. 15, Excelsior Branch Library, 4400 Mission St.
- Oct. 20, Ingleside Station
- Nov. 17, Crocker Amazon Clubhouse, 801 Moscow St.
- Dec. 15, Ingleside Station

Run/ Walk For SAFETY
Sunday, Oct. 25, 10 am registration, Peacock Meadow, just west of McLaren Lodge on JFK Drive, Golden Gate Park.

$10. San Francisco SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone) is hosting its first Annual 5K Fun Run/Walk for SAFETY.

Participants can run, walk, or join the stroller brigade. Visit www.sfsafe5k.dojiggity.com for more 5K information and to register online. SAFE is a nonprofit that partners with the SFPD to provide crime prevention education and support Neighborhood Watch groups (more info at www.sfsafe.org).

Glen Park Branch Library
Denise Sanderson, Glen Park Branch manager, lists some special coming events in her column on Page 17.

You can always check with the library for a full list of scheduled programs and events. All programs at the library are free.

Following are a few more events planned at the library, 2825 Diamond St.

- Baby Rhymes & Playtime: Rhymes, stories, fingerplays & music, for ages birth–3 years. Tuesdays, 10:30 am.
- Preschool Videos: For ages 3–5, Mondays, Sept. 14 & Oct. 19, 10:30 am.
- Yoga for Teens: Thursday, Sept. 17, 4–5 pm. A certified instructor will demonstrate the fun & benefits of yoga, for ages 12-18. Space is limited – register with Marla at 355-2858 or mbergman@sfpl.org.
- Make a Button: Thursday, Oct. 1, 4–5 pm. Decorate your backpack or bulletin board. Create your own images or cut them from magazines; materials will be provided. More information: Marla, see above.

- Tricycle Music Fest West: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10:30–11:30 am. Contact the library for details. Charity is part of this “kindie-rock” music festival for families, which runs Oct. 1–18 at various library branches.

St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church
St. Aidan’s, 101 Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard, offers a variety of programs that may be of interest to their Glen Park neighbors. For information, please contact the church. Programs include these:

- After-School Program: For children in the neighborhood and beyond. St. Aidan’s is partnering with Si Se Puede.
- For information, contact the church.
- Pre-K Program: Several mornings a week, St. Aidan’s and Si Se Puede offer this program for toddlers. There is an opportunity for volunteers, in the computer room, to teach the parents basic computer skills while the toddlers are learning new things.
- Food Pantry: Every Friday, 1–2:30 pm, for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 ZIP code.

Children’s Health & Safety Fair
Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 am–2 pm, Diamond Heights Shopping Center. Following “amazing” interest and participation in the Diamond Heights health fair last May, St. Aidan’s is again co-sponsoring this event with the Shopping Center, and looking to make it even better. Anyone interested in helping in any way is asked to contact Sister Lynne; e-mail lynne@saintaidan.org.

Kiki-Yo Events
Fifth Anniversary Celebration: Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 3 & 4, 3–7 pm, free classes at the studio, 6055 Chenery St. at Castro. For class schedule, visit www.kiki-yo.com.

The Kiki-Yo Yoga and Pilates Studio offers a wide variety of classes in Glen Park, with popular teachers, for a suggested donation of $10. Current classes include:

- Prenatal Yoga: Thursday evenings, 7–8:30 pm, and Saturday mornings, 9–10 am.
- Postnatal Classes: Baby & Me Yoga, Monday afternoons, 1–2:30 pm, and Baby & Me Dance, Thursdays, 11 am–noon.
- Lunchtime Yoga: Wednesdays, noon-1:15 pm.
- Community Yoga: Fridays, noon–1 pm. Teachers Darya and Gabrielle have chosen embraceglobal.org, an organization that provides incubators for preemie babies in India, to receive 50 percent of the proceeds from this class.

USF Free Lecture Series
The USF Center for Child & Family Development begins a free lecture series this fall at their Glen Park counseling center, 36 Monterey Blvd. at Joost.

Monday, Sept. 21, 2–3 pm: First in the series: “Warning Signs and Early Intervention for Young Adults With Eating Disorders,” by Alan Kaufman, LCSW.

To sign up, call 239-9300. For a full schedule of the fall seminar series, visit http://usftherapist.wordpress.com/2009/08/25/fall-seminar-series/.

Bird & Beckett Events
Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 653 Chenery St., presents a potpourri of literary and musical events under the auspices of the nonprofit Bird & Beckett Cultural Legacy Project. Admission is free, but donations help make the series possible, and your purchases help keep the bookstore open. Tax-deductible contributions to the Cultural Legacy Project help keep cultural programming alive in Glen Park.

Check online for the latest information at birdbeckett.com. Pick up a monthly events schedule at the bookshop, or call owner Eric Whittington at 586-3733. Shop hours are 10 am–9 pm Monday–Saturday, 10 am–7 pm Sunday.

Coming Events:
- Three book groups meet monthly, at 7 pm:
  - Bird & Beckett Book Club: 1st Wednesdays. A book is discussed each month; participants choose the next month’s selection.
  - Political Book Discussion Group: 2nd Thursdays. Call for the title.
  - Eminent Authors’ Birthdays: 4th Thursdays. For these open readings, bring a short piece from the works of a favorite writer born during the month to read aloud. Sept. 24 - Celebrating the writings of Cervantes, Cendrars, Chateaubriand, Dahl & others.
  - Oct. 4 - Noel Jewkes & Carla Kaufman, with vocalist Maryl Quayle.
  - Poetry with Open Mic: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7–9 pm. Sept. 21 - Featured readers, then open mic.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22