Recession Stalls Condo Project

With its tattered HouseWrap building paper blowing in the wind and blotched-out graffiti on its walls, the half-finished, long-abandoned housing development on Bosworth and Rousseau streets is a mystery in a neighborhood where cottages sell for a minimum of a half-million dollars.

According to public records, the bank has foreclosed on the property and is considering finishing construction to sell at least some of the units. The lender, Borel Private Bank, has put the property in the hands of a receiver. The receiver, Susan Uecker, can hire contractors and finish the work if it is feasible for the bank to do so.

Neither the bank nor the receiver would return calls to the Glen Park News for comment on the feasibility of completion, but according to the bank’s lawsuit filed in Superior Court, the condos on Bosworth are about 70 percent complete, while the condos on Rousseau are only 15 to 20 percent complete.

“The Receiver is working with a local contractor to secure the building and obtain a bid for completion of the work on the Bosworth property,” court documents said.

Additionally, property records indicate the developer owes nearly $50,000 to construction and electrical contractors.

Property tax records indicate a San Francisco-based developer owned by Burt Hamrol bought the half block as an empty lot from the Ray Burner Oil Company in 1989 at an assessed value of about a half-million dollars. In the summer of 2006, building permits were issued to construct four condominiums on Rousseau and eight condominiums on Bosworth, including four that are advertised as costing more than $1 million.

Drivers roaring off Interstate 280 along San Jose Avenue can still see Zephyr Real Estate’s enormous black banner urging potential buyers to go to www.bosworthomes.com, and the website itself has detailed information about the units. But agent Amy Clemens had little information about the status of the buildings other than to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

BART Lot May Get Glen Park Farmers’ Market Next Spring Likely

The likelihood of a Glen Park farmers’ market for the spring of 2011 is relatively high, thanks to a few people who are pulling strings to make it happen.

The idea was born many months ago. Ric Lopez, president of the Glen Park Merchants Association, and others had tried to get a Sunday morning farmers’ market going by June. However, the suggested location of the market would have required closing a portion of Wilder Street. The City’s Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation—the panel that considers requests for street-closure permits—felt that more community input was necessary. Backers withdrew their proposal in May.

But the idea may have a rebirth. It looks promising for 2011.
from the editors

Glen Park is not stagnant. Businesses come and go, houses are renovated, bus routes are eliminated, added and tweaked, traffic lanes are reconfigured, neighbors move on, newcomers move in—the usual ebb and flow of a neighborhood.

Come January, there will be another change when Glen Park’s newest representative at City Hall will be sworn in. District Eight Supervisor Bevan Dufty, elected eight years ago, is “termed out” of office, and four candidates are running hard to replace him in November’s election. They are Bill Hemenger, Rafael Mandelman, Rebecca Prozan and Scott Wiener. All are Democrats; all are gay; none lives in Glen Park.

Between now and the Nov. 2 election, Glen Park voters should expect to receive a lot of campaign mail, robocalls and knocks on the door by the various campaigns. Take the time to read the candidates’ positions and find out who’s backing them. And, if you can, meet them in person and listen to your gut.

While the District Eight representative is just one of 11 votes on the Board of Supervisors, he or she will be Glen Park’s chief advocate on neighborhood and citywide issues.

Each candidate has a website, which is a good place to begin. Hemenger’s is http://billfordistrict8.com; Mandelman’s is http://rafael2010.com; Prozan’s is rebeccaprozan.com; and Wiener’s is http://www.scott2010.com.

If you are eligible to vote, vote. It’s our right, and our civic responsibility.

Speaking of changes, we also have some to announce at the Glen Park News. Our longtime photo editor, Liz Mangelsdorf, is now sharing that position with a co-editor, Chris Hardy. Liz and Chris, both Glen Park residents, worked together on the photo staffs at the old Hearst-owned Examiner and now are on new career paths—Liz is getting a credential to teach high school math and Chris is teaching photography and working as a freelance photographer. We gratefully thank Liz for all the work she has put into our neighborhood newspaper, and we extend a warm welcome to Chris.

Last, but certainly not least, this issue introduces an informative new column by Bill Wilson, president of the Sunny-side Neighborhood Association, whose neighborhood has close ties with Glen Park. Welcome, neighbor.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

To date the Glen Park News has failed—other than by one small notice and picture of Glen Park Patrol Special Police Officer Calvin Wiley published over a year ago, and a recent mention of our program booth at the Festival—to cover a remarkably generous and beneficial program that supplements our SFPD.

Officer Cal’s patrols in the evening are paid for by a joint fund raised by a group of concerned residents and merchants who sponsor a program that benefits everyone in the Village. As Editor you responded some month ago to my inquiry that the program did not justify coverage by the Glen Park News (which would help us grow the volunteer subscriber base) because it “isn’t a big news draw to our readers.” Yet San Francisco’s Patrol Special Police were featured in a paper by noted security consultant and professor James Pastor as “the vanguard national model to economically address and prevent neighborhood crime during recession. Dr. Pastor’s paper was just published in the online magazine of ASIS International (the world’s largest security organization). Similarly, the Specials will be discussed in a major paper that San Jose State University Assistant Professor Edward P. Stringham will present at a September 27 NYU economics symposium.

After 80 Oakland police officers were laid off on July 15 and crime rose by over 8%, Oakland’s City Council and Chinatown each hired private security guards to fill in. Seventy-eight SFPD officers will soon retire. Evidently for almost two years now, Glen Park (and Glen Park News) has failed. —Rebecca Prozan

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 news

Glen Park endured an ever-present summer fog during July and August, seeming to keep us focused on chores, work commutes, keeping the chill out. Now the bright fall sun is bringing our walkers, picnickers and sitters, filling the tables outside Canyon Market, the Gialina's bench, and the concrete slabs at the BART station. The morning traffic is back at Glen Park Elementary and St. Johns, and there seem to be more Spandex-sleek bike commuters spinning through the village. Fall also starts “meeting season.”

By the time this is in print, we will have seen the Planning Department’s latest draft of the Glen Park Community Plan. The planners, including the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency staff, already have attended many meetings with us in Glen Park; they will hear more comments and concerns at meetings in October.

More public meetings: The Recreation and Park Department will be out in the neighborhood, gathering input for available capital funding to upgrade the Glen Park Recreation Center, the playground and the trails in the canyon. We should also be hearing from the BART development team. We expect BART to reach out actively on the concerns over development of the parking lot across Bosworth Street from the station. Ideas for a farmers’ market at that location are still in play.

The neighborhood will consider important, constructive plans and decisions in the next year or so. It hardly needs saying that there will be a range of opinions and concerns on development, traffic changes, parking, open space and recreation.

As president of the Glen Park Association, I speak for myself and the other board members when I say that that we are committed to using our meetings, committees, the Glen Park News, the Bulletin Board and the blog (http://glenparknews.wordpress.com/) to share and communicate the full range of opinions, concerns and ideas for all these upcoming plans that will affect our neighborhood for years to come.

Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association

Flora, Fauna and Other Highlights of Glen Park Association Meeting

First things first: The Glen Park Association has entered the twentieth century! Our July 14 meeting featured President Michael Rice, and others, speaking through a newly acquired microphone, which enabled the audience to hear every word they said.

For example, we heard about grants that the GPA has given to various worthy recipients: The Glen Park Recreation Center gets three replacement floor mats; the nonprofit Bird & Beck Cultural Legacy Project gets support for its music and reading programs; Sunnyside Elementary School PTA gets help for staff and equipment for its Healthy Lunch Program; and St. Johns Elementary School gets a contribution to its scholarship fund in honor of the late SFPD Officer Mike Walsh of Glen Park. Incidentally, the school gymnasium has been named after Walsh.

Since it was summer, the quarterly meeting focused on outdoorsy topics. On the flora front, Greg Harrell-Edge, the fast-talking and enthusiastic community outreach coordinator for Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF), walked us through the process of getting trees planted in the neighborhood. FUF is a long-established (30 years) and very popular organization, which is responsible for many of the trees now flourishing in Glen Park.

San Francisco residents have the right to plant trees in front of their house within certain rules, such as that the sidewalk must be at least 48 inches wide. The tree must be in a public right of way, so it can be in a public schoolyard but not in a private one. One of FUF’s goals is “2012 by 2012”—planting 2,012 trees in public schoolyards by 2012.

There are no City resources to help in the neighborhood tree-planting effort, so FUF strives to make the planting as affordable and simple as possible. Fifty to 80 percent of the planting cost is subsidized by FUF. They charge the resident $75 dollars to take out the concrete, obtain the permits (done in batches), check the utilities and perform the first 18 months of arbor care.

In a statement that was quite foreign-sounding to the ear, Harrell-Edge said, “We’re one of the few organizations in San Francisco that can report good budget news. We need help in spending that money.”

It’s up to residents to get the ball rolling. They need to identify empty basins, talk to neighbors, canvas their area door to door, and get 25 people together—not necessarily on the same block, just in the same neighborhood—and propose a plan. “I help neighborhoods get to that critical mass,” Harrell-Edge noted. FUF sets a planting date and the prospective owners and volunteers fan out through the neighborhood, do their thing, and top off the day with a self-congratulatory potluck.

One person spearheaded a particularly effective planting program in six weeks from start of planning to finished planting.

How can anyone find fault with such a worthy undertaking? A 16-year resident felt that FUF is “frontloading” a problem—that there is not enough “reality training” about the long-range aspects of tree responsibility. Species can turn out to be inappropriate, take a lot of maintenance, and one can end up spending...
Glen Park Community Plan Update

Despite the ever-expanding timeframe for approval, let alone implementation, of the Glen Park Community Plan, interest in the process remains high in the neighborhood. Around 65 people attended the September 14 meeting in which City of San Francisco planners Jon Swae and John Billovits presented their latest working draft of the plan.

Development of the plan, which will become part of the City’s general plan, was begun in 2003 with significant community input. However, for various reasons, it languished for several years before being resuscitated. It is now being reworked so that it is relevant to conditions in Glen Park circa 2010.

This latest draft incorporates ideas from engineering studies, Glen Park Association meetings and festivals, and other sources. The wording has been retooled into policy language consistent with what is required to be included in the overall City plan.

The boundary of the neighborhood plan is the core village area. No changes are in the plan for the neighborhood’s residential areas.

Among the goals of the plan are to enhance open space, and make improvements in transportation accessibility, traffic calming and pedestrian safety. This, while preserving the special qualities of downtown Glen Park: a vibrant, walkable village with intimate character and scale, conducive to meeting friends and using local services.

The possibility of rezoning the village is also addressed in the draft community plan. Right now, it is designated as a generic commercial zone. If this were changed into a Neighborhood Commercial Transit (NCT) district, plans for parking, housing density, etc. could be customized to the preferences of the community.

The next presentation by the City planners, in November, will focus on zoning.

The other side of the coin is that the plan can also prevent negative impacts. Once it is approved by the Board of Supervisors and the mayor, and integrated into the general plan, the neighborhood plan can forestall projects that conflict with its goals.

The challenges of Glen Park, as well as its charms, add to the complexity of the planning process. The neighborhood’s many transit options—the freeway, BART and Muni—create traffic and bottlenecks in the narrow streets of the village. The mega-structure of the I-280 Southern Freeway has sliced and diced many streets and thoroughfares.

The lack of an approved plan has generated a lot of uncertainty and anxiety in Glen Park about future development.

No matter what the agenda at the update meetings, concerns about development of the BART parking lot and the Kern Alley property arise without fail. However, the community plan does not advocate for any specific project, nor has BART made any proposal yet.

Swae and Billovits will field questions and comments on October 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at an “office hours” open house at the Recreation Center.

Comments on the working draft may also be submitted by e-mail to jon.swae@sfgov.org.

On another track, yet integral to development and adoption of the community plan, is the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will examine the potential impacts of the plan. The draft EIR was supposed to be finished by this past summer but has now been pushed back to early 2011. After a comment period and hearings at the Planning Commission, the EIR should be certified. This pushes the entire plan further out as well.

To read all the details of the plan, go to www.sf-planning.org. Locate “Glen Park Community Plan” in the drop-down menu under the tab “Plans & Programs.”

For a Glen Park “then and now” slide show on the planning website, go to www.sf-planning.org/fjsp/files/Citywide/Glen_Park/GP_Photo_Tour_9_14_10.pdf.

continued from page 3

Glen Park Meeting

hundreds of dollars pruning and maintaining the trees.

Harrell-Edge allowed that the recommended species list changes periodically, based on 30 years of data on how certain trees do. Some trees that were popular in the 1980s and 90s now cause the biggest problems.

It’s a double-edged sword. We have the “freedom” to choose our tree, but it’s also a way for the City to push something else off its plate. Right now the Department of Public Works is responsible for 20 percent of San Francisco’s street trees, mostly along major thoroughfares and median strips. In Glen Park, DPW cares for the trees along the 2200 through 2600 blocks of Diamond Street.

Fauna-wise, representatives of the San Francisco SPCA and Animal Care & Control (ACC) cleared up some confusion as to their respective roles, and the misconception that ACC “puts animals down.” In fact, ACC was spun off as a government department from the SPCA 20 years ago. They keep animals on a five-day hold, after which they either place them for adoption or send them to SPCA for adoption from there.

The end of the line for unwanted pets is volunteer rescue groups. No healthy, non-threatening animal is euthanized in San Francisco.

With that background, Sgt. Larry Johnson, ACC animal control officer, got down to specifics, namely skunks, raccoons and coyotes. Especially coyotes: “They’ve been here longer than most people think. More seem to be spotted recently and we don’t know if more are around or the interest in them that has been aroused lately has generated more reports of sightings.” They’ve been spotted at Walter Haas Park as well as in Glen Canyon Park.

There have been no incidents of attacks on humans or aggression by coy-
Jack and the Beanstalk
Would Love This Garden


All that bounty came out of a box perched atop the roof of Bill Kipp’s garage on Thor Street. Kipp, his wife, Krista Klein, and their kids, Katerina, 6, and William, known as Mars, 4, live at the corner of Chenery and Thor streets. A vegetable garden such as theirs wouldn’t provoke much comment if it were planted in the ground. But the highly visible position of their rooftop greenery has provoked curiosity among their neighbors and pedestrians walking down the steep Thor hill en route to the village.

Kipp works for a start-up company developing transmission capability for renewable energy generated in the Southwest, and Klein is the director of college counseling at Lick Wilmerding High School. They moved to Glen Park in July 2007. Before that, they lived in Ireland, where Bill worked for Google.

An environmental studies major at Dartmouth with an MBA from Stanford, Kipp grew up on a New Mexico ranch where he learned basic carpentry and welding. When they moved into their Glen Park house, the backyard was “a pile of wood chips” where the kids couldn’t play, Kipp says. So, with the help of a landscape designer, he set out to do something about it.

Along one side of the yard, he built a fence. On the other, he created a series of planting beds using metal rather than wood, filled them mostly with low-maintenance succulents and a water-saving drip irrigation system. He also built a deck of sustainable wood in front of the cottage that houses a guest room and their garage. The rest of the yard provides a grassy play space for Katerina and Mars.

But that layout left no room for vegetables—a lack that led directly to the rooftop garden in a container twelve feet long, 4 feet wide and 1 foot deep. Before building the box, Kipp consulted an engineer, who advised him how to position the planter on load-bearing walls. The container was filled with light-weight soil mixed with lots of peat. Keeping it all a neighborhood affair, the seeds came from Glen Park Hardware, where they consulted with Hal and Susan Tauber on which plants would thrive in the sunny but windy spot.

Katerina and Mars have been enthusiastic participants, scrambling up the ladder to reach the vegetable patch. One oddity, Klein notes, is that there are no bugs on the rooftop garden, even though the plants in the yard have attracted cutworms. The kids helped things along by releasing ladybugs.

And the rest, the family notes, was a summer bounty of fresh vegetables at dinner and snack time. Whatever comes out of the box, the kids eat enthusiastically, Kipp says—especially carrots: “They eat them with the greens still on, like Bugs Bunny.”

“I’m not a gardener,” Kipp says. “I didn’t know what I was doing. I just asked people what to do.” Or, as Katerina puts it succinctly, “We grow a lot of things up there.”
Glen Park is a Focal Point of San Francisco's Southern Commute

Just as it was in the days of the streetcars

Glen Park is the center of a lot of increasing attention in San Francisco. The City's planners would like to finalize an official Community Plan that will be sent to the Board of Supervisors. The Recreation and Park Department is beginning to focus attention on improvements to the Recreation Center and trails in Glen Canyon Park.

Glen Park's increasing attention is part of a changing San Francisco. The growing attention is related to the neighborhood's geographic location as a focal point for San Francisco's southern commute. What other neighborhood has such close access to both the U.S. 101 Bayshore and Interstate 280 freeways, as well as a BART stop?

Historically, the Glen Park neighborhood has always played an important role in connecting San Francisco with cities in San Mateo County and further south. The street we now know as San Jose Avenue was indeed the road to San Jose. And before the tunnels were cut in the hills to allow access to the western neighborhoods, the streetcars helped develop the neighborhood as they traveled along Chenery Street.

Why is Glen Park important to San Francisco's southern commute? One reason appears to be simple geography. At the southern end of the hills that rise in the center of San Francisco, Glen Park lies along the easiest route between those hills and Bernal Heights. In this gap the important transportation corridor connecting downtown San Francisco with points south includes Mission Street, San Jose Avenue and the 101 freeway. Transit planners have also followed the route of the streetcars so that now both the J-Church and the BART line stop at Glen Park and continue south. In fact, with a few exceptions, many of the north-south travel corridors go through the Glen Park neighborhood.

So Glen Park appears fated to have a stream of commuters heading past the neighborhood for as far into the future as we can see. When downtown San Francisco was the center of employment in the Bay Area, most of those commuters were heading north in the morning, and Glen Park and other areas to the south were the nice neighborhoods where families could find enough space to raise a family and have a back yard.

But like many other things in San Francisco, commuting patterns have been changing. Many of the large companies that used to employ many people downtown no longer exist, or have moved to the suburbs. Many of the new jobs in the Bay Area in the last couple of decades have been located to the south, in a region that is famous around the world as Silicon Valley.

Yet many people who work in San Mateo and even Santa Clara counties still live in San Francisco. As a result, San Francisco's southern commute has gaining importance. Not only are people continuing to commute north from the Peninsula to downtown and the East Bay, but many San Francisco residents commute to their jobs south of the city.

Transportation planners are still catching up to the rise of San Francisco's southern commute. One indicator of the increasing southern commute is the growing number of private commuter buses that use the Glen Park BART station as a pick-up and drop-off point for their employees. Another sign is the rush hour congestion that backs up traffic onto Glen Park streets as commuters wait to get on the freeway.

During the morning and afternoon rush hours, the intersection of Diamond and Bosworth often looks as confusing and congested as any intersection in the financial district. Why is this Glen Park intersection one of the most trafficked intersections in the southern part of San Francisco? While we understand that the rise of the southern commute has something to do with this problem, we also hope that City planners and our elected officials will continue to work hard to improve the situation.

Commentary by Lewison Lem

Lewison Lem is a Glen Park resident who serves as chairperson of the Traffic and Transportation Committee of the Glen Park Association. He was formerly transportation policy manager for the AAA of Northern California. He currently is a professional consultant on energy and transportation issues.
'Mompreneurs' Start In-Home Businesses

Faced with the choice of going back to work after the birth of a child or staying home, more mothers have decided to do both by starting their own business and working from home while caring for their children. Glen Park boasts a number of these “mom-preneurs,” determined to be both professionally productive and the primary caregiver for their children. As sole proprietors of their in-home businesses, they are rewarded by increased autonomy and creativity in their work and by schedule flexibility that allows them to be more active parents than many traditional nine-to-fivers.

Glen Park mother of two MonaLisa Wallace founded Safe Sand Company after she discovered that the sand she had purchased for her 10-month old daughter’s sandbox contained cancer-causing materials. An attorney and former CEO of an environmental products company, Wallace started selling safe beach sand to parents like herself, to preschools, and to playgrounds. In the beginning, she says, “it was just me opening one little niche store in my home with my little child at my knee.” Now her daughter is 10, and Safe Sand (www.safesand.com) has had sales of over $1 million.

Wallace’s interests extend well beyond sand. With her husband she started nodryclean.com, a website that provides information about environmentally friendly cleaners in their area. She also handles legal cases and has served two terms as president of San Francisco NOW (the National Organization for Women). Wallace believes that choosing between career and staying at home is “a false dichotomy. You can focus on your children and write your novel or have your own business.”

Prior to the birth of her son, local architect Rebecca Katkin worked for a small firm and taught interior design. After his birth in 2009, she opened her own practice in her home in order to have greater flexibility and control of her hours and be her son’s primary caregiver. She continues to teach and serves clients primarily in remodeling their homes or in making tenant improvements to commercial space at Katkinarchitecture.wordpress.com

Balancing her business and caring for her son is an ongoing challenge, particularly managing childcare when her work demands fluctuate. But Katkin finds the rewards—both as mother and architect—worthwhile. Running her own business allows her to be self-directed and creative, set her own hours, work from home and be a more involved parent. And whether she is building towers of blocks for Max to knock down or remodeling a client space to “create something both beautiful and utilitarian,” Katkin is passionate about both her roles.

Trained as a photographer, Kate Zimmerman Skogen started a custom invitation business in Athens, Georgia after graduating from college. When she and her husband moved to Glen Park and had their son, Skogen recreated her business, JetKat Design, in her new home, and shifted her focus to graphic design and stationery. She also does wedding photography.

Like the other entrepreneur/moms interviewed for this story, Skogen appreciates the flexibility and control that running her own business affords. While she loves being a mother, she values having a creative outlet and feeling productive outside the domestic arena. And, she says, “keeping up with my art and creativity allows me to pass on some of my creativity to my son. We’ll do more art projects.” She also incorporates her son into her photography, creating a “photo of the day” project starring 20 month-old Arlo. She’s at www.jetkatdesign.com.

Glen Park mom Elena Lipkins is a...
notes from city hall

I am nearing the end of my eight years on the Board of Supervisors, representing District 8, including Glen Park. So I want to use the occasion of my last column (as supervisor) in the Glen Park News to share some great memories and to thank some of the people who have helped me better represent the interests of the neighborhood.

Serving as your supervisor has been the job of a lifetime. After 27 years working behind the scenes in government and politics, I got to step out and establish my own identity and take positions, right or wrong, that reflected my views.

Running for the board in 2002, I built many relationships in Glen Park that remain close to this day. Zoanne Nordstrom knew me from my days as director of neighborhood services for the mayor’s office. Her support, advice and friendship were so important when the waters got choppy during the conflict over the library and marketplace and friendship were so important when the mayor’s office. Her support, advice and friendship were so important when the waters got choppy during the conflict over the library and marketplace and friendship were so important when the mayor’s office...

Miriam Moss

I also want to acknowledge all those who raised voices to ask that the City do a better job of managing parking resources to ensure that there was parking turnover and availability. Gary Pike was very concerned, but once the project moved forward there was never rancor.

It has been wonderful seeing the revival of new restaurants and establishments that have made Glen Park a destination. My good friend Sharon Adriana left her position of chef at Lime to open Gialina, her beautiful testimony to her grandmother’s influence inspiring her passion for food and family.

Director Tom Radanovich for his support of this process as well as BART staff and so many great staff members from Planning, SFMTA and other City departments.

When the marketplace project was appealed to the Board of Supervisors, it was very difficult seeing neighbors and merchants lining up on both sides of the aisle to testify in support and opposition. The board unanimously rejected the appeal and Kieran Buckley stepped forward to rescue the market, library and 15 residences. He always will be a hero in my book and I’m also grateful to Chris Foley for his involvement, including investing in the market.

Certainly Richard and Janet Tarlov are all-stars for following their dreams and vision in opening Canyon Market. At a time of colossal grocery companies, it is inspiring to have a couple devote themselves to creating such a community-oriented market.

Librarian Sharon Dezurick (now retired) was a strong and constant voice to ensure that Glen Park readers of all ages got a beautiful, light, high-quality library to replace the cramped branch on Chenery Street.

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Miriam Moss has never been shy to rattle my cage when it comes to the care of Glen Park Recreation Center and the Canyon. Her advocacy that the City keep its promise to renovate the Rec Center has been felt and has held us accountable to make this project happen in the coming years.

I can’t say enough good things about Michael Rice’s leadership of the Glen Park Association. GPA has provided a consistent forum for me and City departments to interface and receive community feedback. We often meet at St. John’s School, which makes me recall all the kindnesses of Sister Lillian Crepak, who always invited me to school events and welcomed me.

Richard Craib has been a wise voice for Glen Canyon Park. Whether it was questions about foliage or educating neighbors about not feeding coyotes, Richard is always a hard worker and a passionate canyon protector.

On many occasions, I would work with Glen Park neighbors and then encounter them in other parts of my life. Dr. Ari Green was a leader in bringing traffic calming to Lippard and Brompton streets, and then months later I learned that he is an incredible UCSF leader in research and treatment for multiple sclerosis that affects someone very close to me. I feel so fortunate that he came into my life and then has been so instrumental in helping someone live a healthier, happier life despite MS.

Public Safety has been an important issue in the neighborhood and the community has rallied when crime has flared up, never as much as when the owner of Buddy’s Market was brutally assaulted. Hundreds of neighbors turned out and got the attention of San Francisco Police Department command staff. We have been blessed with some outstanding captains at Ingleside Station, among them Paul Chignell, Denis O’Leary, David Lazar and Lou Cassano, among others. And thanks to the patrol specials who provide careful attention to the village and residents.

And to Ric Lopez, who has led the Glen Park Merchants for many years, and all the board members who give of their time and talent.

Dan Gustafson, formerly of Glen Park Dental, was pivotal in working with Mohammed Nuru of the Department of Public Works in bringing about the landscaping as well as the ambassador program to improve street-cleaning in the village.

There is no way to properly thank all the neighbors and merchants and City staff who have done so much to improve Glen Park and create community. I want to thank everyone who called or e-mailed with a question or concern, as these directed my efforts every day at City Hall.

I look forward to a new supervisor doing an even better job and taking the neighborhood forward. Glen Park is a very special place because of the natural beauty, its great access to transit, its neighborhood feel and, most of all, its great people. Finally, kudos to the volunteers who produce the Glen Park News for providing this important neighborhood publication and for valiantly trying to get me to meet a deadline! Thanks for everything.

Bevan Duffy is Glen Park’s representative on the Board of Supervisors.
Quilt Makers Stitch Community Spirit

The Wednesday Whimsical Sewing Circle meets regularly in an apartment across the street from the Glen Park BART station. This small group of women creates works of art that warm both body and soul. They donate their creations to multiple good causes, including preemie babies, assault victims and breast-cancer survivors.

Monterey Boulevard’s quartet of quilters isn’t above doing a little fanciful gabbing, as well. “There’s lots of sharing,” explains Janelle Reed, who has been quilting for 15 years. “Together we have access to so many more ideas.”

“Some of us are artistically challenged,” jokes Carol Cisłowski, who rides the 43 Masonic to Glen Park from the Marina District and whose needlework has occupied her for three years. “Sewing quilts is so very creative,” says Cisłowski. She donated her seal motif quilt to the Marin Headlands Marine Mammal Center’s Education Department, where she serves as a volunteer docent when she isn’t tutoring students at Daly City’s Thomas R. Pollicita Middle School in the art of quilting.

“I’m like a citizen-teacher,” Cisłowski explains, a tapestry of quilted cotton tented across her knees. Her multi-hued fabrics might have originated from Appalachian agrarian work shirt scraps or Missouri muslin dress remnants just as easily as from a Bay Area fabric store. She and the other ladies, all members of the San Francisco Quilters Guild, make comforters that eventually will wend their way to new brides, expectant mothers and countless babies in bassinets.

Janelle Reed learned to quilt from her grandmother, who learned her needlework on the cold Nebraska plains. “She wanted to hand down a legacy to her grandkids,” says Reed, who has donated many of her own quilts to the OMI Senior Center Food Pantry. She still owns one of her grandmother’s 100-year-old quilts, embellished with graceful, hand-stitched butterflies.

Quilts have always been a way to create lasting legacies. Dorte Brandenhoff, who hails from Denmark, has been quilting for 38 years. One of her favorite quilts was a keepsake she handcrafted for her son Peter, who recently retired after 14 years as a dancer for the San Francisco Ballet.

Brandenhoff, who lives in Pacific Heights, doesn’t quilt exclusively for family. Over the past two years she has quilted 185 heart-shaped pillows for San Francisco General Hospital breast-cancer patients. Pointing to a petite heart-shaped pillow that fits beneath a woman’s arm to pad delicate skin during treatment, she says, “The women position the pillows after undergoing surgery. They simply love them.”

Quilting community outreach is familiar to Martha Ryan, director of the Family Opportunity Center at 18th Street and Potrero Avenue, and also to Dr. Terri Slagle of the Neonatology Clinic at California Pacific Medical Center. Partnering with the San Francisco Quilters Guild, the two women help others through the good works of the SFQG. Ryan assists low-income and homeless mothers at the Potrero Hill center, and SFQG volunteers have scheduled numerous quilting workshops and sewing classes, even given baby showers for hard-pressed mothers.

Each has had beneficial effects. “Our clients sometimes have a tough time bonding with their babies,” says Ryan. “When our moms quilt they seem to put aside problems for just a while and focus on positive skills.”

Slagle tells a similar tale, although the infants she deals with often come into the world 16 weeks early. Even though the preemies are kept in heated incubators, the quilts play a vital role in their care, she says. “The Guild-created quilts send a message and the parents embrace it,” says Slagle. “It is the personal touch, a small gift, but it signals that the baby is acquiring ‘things’ and is going to make it!”

The utilitarian bedcovers, filled with soft, billowing batting, even have a spiritual component, says Reed. “Quilting is very contemplative,” she says.

Betty McNeil, who lives on the slopes of Mt. Davidson within sight of its iconic cross, agrees: “Quilting is relaxing and soothing and done in a meditative pose.” When her prayer group received a request to help a Bay Area high school student who was attacked last year, she began constructing a prayer quilt that would be given to the victim. “We wanted to offer the young woman something tangible. Each prayer square represents healing,” she says.

In all our long history, Americans have never really stopped quilting. The past few years have witnessed a noticeable sewing surge, possibly due to the rapidity of modern life and a perceived need to return to simpler times. McNeil puts it down to “thread envy” and the desire to turn fabric stashes into something wonderful. Taking a look around Reed’s apartment, it’s clear McNeil is onto something. None of Reed’s brilliant stash has been “salted away.” Lined up row-by-row, sorted by color checkerboard fashion, neat as pins, fabrics complement spools of thread racked on an adjacent wall that would make any seventh-grade woodshop teacher happy. She shares this with her husband, Steve, a hiker and backpacker, who is less interested in a quilter’s “stitch-in-the-ditch” than he is a trekker’s walk-in-the-wilderness.

Smiling, Reed says, “Steve is starting to needle me about quilting him a sleeping bag cover.”

For more information about quilting, whimsical or otherwise, visit www.sfquiltersguild.org.
Neighborhood Hero Helps Catch a Crook

Lately, I have been writing about “Neighborhood Heroes.” Neighborhood heroes are residents who see suspicious activity and report it to the police. Here is another example of a hero:

On Thursday, September 9, 2010 at 11:30 in the morning, our hero walked out of his home and saw two persons wearing black hooded sweatshirts standing against a building. The two stood next to each other and kept looking about, as if they were “look-outs.” Our hero stared at them, which made the two nervous. A third person was walking a dog and got into a parked vehicle. The two previous persons ran to the same vehicle and got in. The vehicle then drove away, but not before our hero wrote down the license plate.

Our hero was concerned because of recent burglaries. He was so concerned, he drove around the neighborhood to conduct his own investigation and spotted the vehicle parked. He wrote down the license plate and called the police. When the police arrived, our hero pointed out the vehicle, which was now unoccupied. Officers found multiple laptops in the vehicle. After a little investigation, one of the suspects was taken into custody and stolen property from the burglary was recovered.

Once again, this example shows how you can be a neighborhood hero. You are the neighborhood expert when it comes to a suspicious person, suspicious activity and when something is “out of place” in your community. Just your observations and a phone call can stop not only a crime, but possibly a crime wave.

Capt. Louis Cassanego is commander of SFPD’s Ingleside Station, which provides protection for Glen Park. The captain’s messages can be viewed online at www.InglesidePoliceStation.com.

Glen Park Meeting
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

otes. That’s no cause for complacency, however. People, city folk in particular, have a romantic view of coyotes. They are intrigued and might feed and pet them, but this is dangerous because, as Johnson says, “These are wild animals and we cannot befriend them.” And it is illegal to feed a wild animal; they will gravitate to locations that are conducive to their survival, thus perpetuating the danger of interaction.

Coyotes are small animals and generally fear anything larger than themselves. Therefore, children and pets are more likely to be a target for them than an adult would be.

Someone asked if anything “proactive” could be done before a disaster strikes—is there a plan or do we just wait for a tragic incident? The short answer is, people should just leave coyotes alone. A “noise can” filled with pebbles or the like will frighten coyotes off. Also, children should not take food onto the trails in the park. Educating oneself in appropriate behavior around wild animals and taking personal responsibility is the key to being proactive.

Jennifer Scarlett, interim director of SF SPCA, took up some issues about dogs and cats, especially the importance of keeping up on their rabies vaccines. She talked about the SPCA’s feral cat program in which three times a week, feral cats are trapped, neutered and released. If these cats were euthanized, the total would be over one thousand per year.

Interestingly, if domestic cats are not neutered and are abandoned, it takes only one generation for them to become feral, so the problem can spiral quickly.

San Francisco has its own one-woman show, Jamie Ray, who is the only person in the city and county licensed to trap, rehabilitate or euthanize wildlife. Her phone number is 350-WILD and her motto is, “Nobody has to die.” She works out of her home and is grateful for any donations toward keeping her operations going.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty stopped by the meeting with his adorable daughter, Sidney, and gave some political perspective. He’s working with the pet stores in the city to facilitate adoptions. In his view, cats are the biggest problem. People don’t bring them to the veterinarian for health maintenance as diligently as they do for their dogs. The problem is particularly acute in the Sunnydale, Visitacion Valley and Excelsior neighborhoods, he disclosed.

That being said, Dufty observed, “Because of the SPCA and the ACC, San Francisco is one of the safest cities in the nation if you’re a dog or a cat.”
neighborly news from sunnyside

Sunnyside is the working-class neighborhood located between Westwood Park on the west and Glen Park on the east, Interstate 280 on the south and Miraloma Park on the north.

Our relationship with Glen Park is morphing. Recently the real estate industry has annexed parts of Sunnyside as Glen Park to improve their marketability. While it would be easy to take offense at this, the name Sunnyside itself is a similar marketing ploy. Everyone who has lived here any length of time knows Sunnyside isn’t sunny.

Sunnyside has always been the kind of working-class neighborhood that is the backbone of our city. Among its not-well-known treasures is the Diego Rivera mural “Pan-American Unity,” painted in 1940 during the Golden Gate International Exposition and now housed at the Diego Rivera Theatre on the City College campus at the southwestern border of our neighborhood.

Even though I have lived in the neighborhood only since 1997, I can see some major changes—and more are on the way. We have a new playground and a renovated clubhouse. The Sunnyside Conservatory is now the stunning jewel it was meant to be. Renovation of the Safeway on Monterey Boulevard is in the planning process, and a virtual tour of the proposed design can be taken at sunnysidesafewaysf.com.

Friends of the Sunnyside Conservatory have started a series of Friday night fund-raising concerts in the Conservatory. The Temescal String Quartet played to a capacity crowd on July 23, and future concerts will be taking place: accordion music on Oct. 1 and folk music on Nov. 12. The annual pumpkin-carving event will take place at the Conservatory on Oct. 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further information visit www.sunnyside-conservatory.org.

Those of you who have used Circular Drive in the past several months may have noticed that the south side has been cleaned up and the triangles at Staples and Congo have been weeded and mulched. The Department of Public Works has just approved plans for the planting of these triangles, which will take place in the fall. Volunteers from the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association’s Greening Committee, which is headed by Pat Moore, have worked almost every Saturday since May weeding, trimming, raking, pruning and picking up trash along Circular. With community involvement, we can prevent dumping along that street because people will know that the area is watched and cared about. We welcome our neighbors in Glen Park to help out.


Moms

Continued from page 7

Mompreneur twice over. While on bed rest during her first pregnancy, Lipkins realized how productive she could be working from home, and in 2002 started her own event planning business. “Running my own business means I carve out time to work, as opposed to carving out time to be with my kids,” she says. Lipkins also makes time for ambitious projects, including developing the enormously successful Fun Run fundraiser at Miraloma Elementary School.

At Miraloma, Lipkins met her business partner Linda Bulgo Baumann. While working together on a student production of Peter Pan, they discovered a kindred interest in bringing theater to youngsters. Having identified a need for reasonably priced musical theater classes accessible to children of varying experience and ability, they joined forces and last spring launched Linda’s Musical Theater Group with two musical theater classes that culminated in a production of Alice in Wonderland. This fall they have ramped up their offerings to include classes in voice, audition preparation, acting/drama, and musical theater for children in grades K–8.

Recalling the important role of theater in her own youth, Lipkins is committed to their mission to create a “safe environment where children can use their imaginations and flourish as a performer.”

Hanna Clements-Hart is a personal and professional coach and mother of three. She can be reached at www.BeaconCoaching.com.
Sunnyside Elementary

Changes are afoot at Sunnyside Elementary, the neighborhood school at 250 Foerster Street. A new look, a new principal and a growing collection of community partnerships that support science, P.E. and art programs!

The building now prominently boasts a gorgeous sun mural, radiating with energy and enthusiasm of the students and teachers. The installation of this public art work was a result of community partnerships funded through the City and County of San Francisco Community Challenge Grants, KidServe Youth Murals and the Sunnyside PTA. Kindergarten and 4th grade students helped create the design under the direction of Josef Norris, KidServe’s founder, and more than 50 parent volunteers completed the final installation.

Sunnyside Elementary’s new principal is John Simard. As the instructional coach at William Cobb Elementary, Simard’s leadership improved academic practices and standards there. In May he was awarded a Masters degree in education from the Principals’ Leadership Institute at U.C. Berkeley. He also taught 4th and 5th grades for six years in San Jose and the Los Angeles area, where he received teaching his credential from CSU Long Beach and a Bachelors Degree in anthropology from CSU Fullerton.

Simard’s goals are clear: “In my role as the leader of this school, I plan to continue Nancy Schlenke’s good work over the past five years with an eye to building capacity in students, staff and families to enhance our instructional program in order to prepare Sunnyside’s students for college, career and beyond.”

Sunnyside Elementary staff and PTA

Glen Park Elementary

“Please Pardon Our Appearance While We Remodel”

Visitors to Glen Park Elementary School (GPE) won’t be required to don hard hats when they visit the grand old dame of Lippard Street, but they should be aware that the school is undergoing a major facelift. If all goes according to plan, the disruption to the student body will be minimal. We are keeping our fingers crossed!

Bungalows arrived this summer in preparation for a major modernization of the school to bring it up to 21st century standards. The school will receive all sorts of upgrades, including new paint, a play structure for the older children, a covered outdoor seating area (aka “the gazebo”) for meals and classes, a new fire escape from the second floor, new lighting and upgraded flooring to meet modern ADA standards.

Next summer, as soon as the bungalows are removed from the school yard, Glen Park Elementary will begin its green-
Hear, Here

This is about the sounds we hear in our neighborhoods. (Please remove earbuds.) There are a lot of different and defining sounds out there. Of course we constantly hear many things, but tend not to listen.

by Dolan Eargle

Since many sounds we hear tend to be easily characterized at “roar,” I was at some loss as to how to label or describe them, and further discouraged by Wikipedia and Google for not defining “roar,” only describing various roars. A real definition of “roar” should be a sound of mixed pitches, frequencies or notes. It may be soft or loud, sudden, prolonged or short. A single frequency may come from several sizes and shapes of leaves and branches, each contributing to a mix of pitches. It certainly comes from the exhaust pipes of several internal combustion vehicles, each with its own mix of pitches emanating from a muffler (cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, etc.). Without these outside sources, wind whipping around the irregular surfaces of our cars may cause a roar, in this case a whistling of only a few pitches.

In Glen Park, as well as in nearby neighborhoods, the most obvious roar that can easily be identified is from vehicles on six parallel arteries: loudest and neighborhood, the most obvious roar are Monterey Boulevard and Alemany these, yet adding their contributions, tent). Not to forget, the intermittent noise); and Chenery Street (intermittent.

A roar may be caused by one or several sources at once: the sound of wind may come from several sizes and shapes of leaves and branches, each contributing to a mix of pitches. It certainly comes from the exhaust pipes of several internal combustion vehicles, each with its own mix of pitches emanating from a muffler (cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, etc.). Without these outside sources, wind whipping around the irregular surfaces of our cars may cause a roar, in this case a whistling of only a few pitches.

Other rare, distant sounds: on a quiet night with an east breeze you might hear a foghorn on the west span of the Bay Bridge with its every-13-second “boop.” It’s much easier to pick up a CalTrain horn signaling “bo-a-ard” at its stop in Bayshore. Its triple-tone horn mimics the old steam engines with an F-A-C triad (above middle C on the piano keyboard). There’s even a possibility of hearing the deep hum made by the revving up of their big diesels.

All right—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday we get to hear the street-cleaners’ one-note serenade. These hummers are at B♭ above middle C, with slight wavering of pitch when resting. Do you wonder why they make so much noise? The Recology trucks make a racket too with their banging bins and their sneezing brakes, but we know they’re necessary.

I’m fascinated by those huge, noisy “sucker” trucks that occasionally clean out the sewer grates at low-lying street corners. Other big trucks necessarily make noise—cement, delivery and the like. Esch.
Glen Park Rec Center
Upgrades Planned—
Staff and Hours Shrink

The first of several meetings for planning the renovation of Glen Canyon Park and Recreation Center is to be set for this October. The exact date was still being decided at press time. Fliers will be posted, according to Project Manager Karen Mauney-Brodek.

The process was started back in 2004 but quickly ended when City officials discovered they had overspent the 2000 Park Bond by $56 million. The money for the master plan is now coming from the 2008 Park Bond. We have been awarded $5.8 million, which is a far cry from the $40 million needed to fix or rebuild not only the Rec Center, but the playground, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, soccer field and irrigation; the planning is also for Silver Tree and the trails. This makes our park the most complicated site to be redone.

There is separate bond money for tree problems and trail restoration.

Other sites financed by this bond got $22 million and can be completed in one phase. Our site will have to wait to be completed until passage of yet another bond, which is currently planned to be put on the ballot in 2014.

In the meantime, the City is now looking for additional funds and grant money with the help of the Trust for Public Land.

Things do not come cheap. The St Mary’s Rec Center playground cost $3 million.

Other changes at our site began with the implementation of the new “Recreation” model on August 9. This was precipitated by the loss of $12.4 million from the Rec and Park Budget. This was part of the way the mayor and the board of supervisors balanced the City budget.

For Glen Park, the result is that the Rec Center is now closed Sundays and Mondays, including the bathrooms. It is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Furthermore, we no longer have traditional recreation directors. The people who actually run programs at Glen Park are recreation leaders who are assigned part-time, as needed, on an hourly basis from site to site anywhere in the City.

We do have a full-time facility coordinator for our Rec Center. His name is Oskar Rosas and can be reached at 337-4705. Our recreation supervisor is Larry Mc Nesby, who works among six parks and can be reached at 718-6226 or Larry. McNesby@sfgov.org.

The City’s manager for recreation is Jim Wheeler who can be reached at 831-6818 or James.Wheeler@sfgov.org.

We also have a new City park service area manager. Kristin Bowman was formerly head of volunteer services. She began her new position on September 1, and can be reached at 831-6325 or Kristin. Bowman@sfgov.org.

The first fall classes at the Rec Center were held in August and September. The second fall session begins October 12 and ends December 18. Most classes already have fees and the plan is to charge for everything. You have to register to be allowed into a class.

Many thanks to the Glen Park Association and to the Friends of Glen Canyon Park for the money supplied to the Recreation Center for the purchase of four floor mats. I have personally seen the great use they have been getting in all the Tiny Tot Classes.

Another thank-you goes to both groups for the money to purchase replacements for the rotting wine barrels filled with flowers surrounding the Rec Center. New soil and plants were to be provided by the Rec and Park Department. Friends of Glen Canyon Park planned to plant new flowers in September. Kudos to all the volunteers without whom beautification of our park would never happen.

The Parent Teacher Organization is busy as well trying to make GPE the best it can be. We are making a big push to increase our visibility in the neighborhood. We have a Facebook page for the PTO where we can keep you apprised of upcoming events and fundraising efforts, and a website for the school itself through SchoolLoop: https://gpes-sfusd-ca.schoolloop.com.

We hope that the neighborhood continues to embrace its local elementary school and we look forward to seeing our newest crop of kids for 2011!

Shelley Smith is co-president of the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization, a slightly different form of PTA.
check it out at the library

With school back in session, the library is getting busy again. After school, the library is often filled with local children from St. Johns, St. Finn Barr and Glen Park Elementary schools. At times the library can be a bustling and not your traditionally quiet library. While the noise level is somewhat elevated, it is heartwarming to know that the children of Glen Park enjoy the library and hopefully will turn into lifelong users.

Speaking of school, we are excited to once again host a program for Parents for Public Schools. The advocacy and information organization will present a kindergarten workshop on Saturday, Nov. 6, from 2–4:30 p.m. You will be able to hear firsthand from parents about San Francisco public schools, why they chose them, and learn what you need to know about the “new” public schools enrollment process.

The selection for the yearly *One City One Book: San Francisco Reads 2010* is *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers. It is the true story of one family in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on Sept. 6, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. It is a riveting account of one family’s struggle.

This year also continues with our bi-monthly *On the Same Page* book club choice. The November/December book is *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. In 1996, Hanna Heath, a young Australian book conservator, is called to analyze the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a priceless 600-year-old Jewish prayer book that has been salvaged from a destroyed Bosnian library. When Hanna discovers a series of artifacts in the centuries-old book, she unwittingly exposes an international cover-up. Look for multiple copies on display for checkout toward the end of October.

To round out the year at the library we are hosting a Holiday Party on Saturday, December 4, from 2-4 p.m. We will have drop-in holiday craft projects where participants of all ages can make tissue paper wreaths and felt ornaments. You can take your creations home in our new Glen Park Library tote bag, of which we have limited quantities. Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

The Community Calendar on the back page of this issue has more information about library events; to find out more about our programs and other library news, please visit our Glen Park Library blog at http://glenparklibrarysfpl.blogspot.com/. The library web site is http://sfpl.org/.

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.

Beyond Blogs—Our Editors are On the Airwaves

*Glen Park News* Editor-in-Chief Elizabeth Weise’s phone rang on Chenery Street after lunch on Aug. 23. PBS’s “NewsmHour” needed an expert on the massive nationwide egg recall caused by salmonella enteritidis. Her definitive story about the outbreak was in that morning’s *USA Today*. Could she be in a downtown studio a little over an hour later, ready to explain the situation?

That evening, PBS viewers across the country watched her informative report, as part of the newscast’s lead story. Just another day in the life of a busy Glen Park mom, national newspaper correspondent, neighborhood editor and occasional TV current-events pundit.

Our Deputy Editor Rachel Gordon’s face is already familiar to viewers of “This Week in Northern California” on KQED-TV, Channel 9. They call on her when one of her *Chronicle* news stories covers a topic they want to include in their Friday evening broadcast. On Aug. 19 and 20 Gordon was in a different studio, down the hall at KQED-FM, filling in for morning “Forum” host Michael Krasny. In the two two-hour broadcasts, she moderated panels of guests in discussions of San Francisco transit and other topics, ably guiding the discourse and bringing in phone and e-mail comments from listeners.

In this era when anyone can have a blog—and it seems almost everyone does—it’s still cool when your neighbor is a bona fide media authority. Just another day in Glen Park.

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**Sounds of Glen Park**

Continued from page 13

Other annoyances: car alarms, back-up beeps, truck-turning beeps. I’m always alarmed by the unmistakable buzz of a chainsaw. Removal of dead trees, OK. Trimming of growth, OK. But removal of a tree just because it annoys someone is definitely not OK. If you see or hear of this, call the City at 311 to report it right away. It can often be stopped. Not long ago someone wanted some “old” but perfectly healthy trees removed on Monterey Blvd. The City withdrew permission to cut. They’re still there. Yea!

OK, it’s time to look up. There are always planes—from the throat-clearing rush of jets, to the sputter of low-flying prop planes, to the spatter of news helicopters, to the “whump-whump” (you can tell ‘em coming from a long way off) of big military or “important people” helicopters (low G below middle C).

Every time a helicopter starts hovering over Glen Park you know there’s an accident on 280. The Glen Park Parents list lights up with questions to see if anyone knows what happened and if anyone was hurt.

Personally, I get a kick out of looking up to see the source. Find the jet (no fog, please), then expect the sound to trail along about one hand’s distance behind it (distance depends on the height of the plane and the direction of the wind).

Enough of infernal combustion engines.

Listen for the “whees” of the red-tail hawks, the commanding “haw” and other squawks of the ravens (small birds beware), the sharp “jay” of the blue jays, the tunes of our Diamond Valley mockingbird (yep, he’s still around—same repertoire), the cackles of a happy hen who just laid (there are several backyards with them), the inter-chatter and squeak-squeaks of a flock of small sparrows, the noisy chatter of a flock of parrots, the soft “coo-coo” of the mourning doves and the burbling and flapping of their pigeon relatives, the “cheep-cheep” of the yellow warblers that sit at the tops of trees to make announcements. Seagulls send their ways from bay to beach in the morning and back in the evening, but they don’t laugh.

Our once-prolific flock of blackbirds seems to have vanished—possibly from West Nile virus as in Sacramento? I have yet to distinguish the bird sounds near Islais Creek. Can someone help us out with that?

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Part II will appear in our Winter issue.
Among the many animals that make their homes in Glen Canyon Park are the owls and hawks that fit well into the ecosystem of the Bay Area. We’re fortunate to have these two winged predators in the park—both raptors, or birds of prey—since they keep the populations of gophers, rats and mice under control in a non-toxic, ecological way. These birds provide a valuable service, for without them, the rodents might become overpopulated and deprive other animals of the grains to eat in the park. Since the owls and hawks live in the park, they are able to maintain the balance of nature in the animal population.

The owls that are commonly seen in the park are great horned owls. There are two families of owls: tytonidae, the barn owls, and striigidae, or typical owls that include all the rest of the types of owls.

Barn owls nest in enclosures, trees and natural rock formations. The barn owl’s scientific name is Tyto alba, referring to its distinctive heart-shaped white face; all its feathers are light in color, speckled with pale brown. The great horned owl, or cat owl, Bubo virginianus, has a white throat and barred feathers; it emits five or six hoots. One of the best known owl species, barn owls are found all over the world. They mostly feed on mice, which they catch in fields or other open areas; they historically have been attracted to barns because that’s where the rodents have been, drawn by stored grain.

There are plans to attract barn owls to Glen Canyon Park by installing nesting boxes. While many owls can live for 15 to 20 years, in the wild they may have a much shorter lifespan. Many owls and hawks die every year from pesticides in their prey. Their diet can also include gophers, lizards and grasshoppers.

In Glen Canyon, the great horned owls have been nesting for several years in a tall, isolated tree behind the Recreation Center building, near where the creek goes underground. Generally they fledge in late April to early May, often using a nest previously made by other birds, such as hawks.

Barn owls prefer nesting near an open road or path so that they have a good view of prey. They feed by picking up their prey from the ground, so they prefer smaller animals that they can carry off to a sheltered area or eat right away at the catch spot. Owls have a keen sense of hearing and eyesight developed to help them hunt over great distances. Their sense of smell is less developed, which allows them to prey on skunks without being bothered by the odor. They may locate their prey by sitting on a perch, such as a tree branch or rock formation, or by flying over a field or other open area.

While barn owls stay in one general location all year, hawks fly south in the winter for warmer climates. Red-tailed hawks, Buteo jamaicensis, live in habitats such as fields, prairies and meadows. They look for snakes and gophers in surrounding grasslands. Another species of hawk that frequents Glen Canyon Park is the red-shouldered hawk, Buteo lineatus. They eat mainly rodents, in a feeding pattern similar to that of the owls, although they may also eat small birds or lizards found in the wild. Both owls and hawks serve to restore the natural balance of the park.

Work parties in the canyon meet Wednesdays at 9 a.m. behind the Rec Center and also the third Saturday of the month. For more information about the Friends of Glen Canyon Park, visit http://bit.ly/glencanyonpark.

Monika Lewis is the columnist for The Friends of Glen Canyon Park.

We think of our gardens as primarily a spring/summer phenomenon, but you can stretch it into three seasons by making some plans for fall. When you plan your garden, try to think of roughly one-third of the plants for fall. That way, you will be able to look outside from March through November in Glen Park and see color.

Fall colors, as you know, are the reds, the oranges and the yellows, along with various shades of green. These colors are so vibrant that a little goes a long way, and you don’t need to plant a lot of each to please yourself. And, since we are in an area of San Francisco that is mild and not totally foggy all summer long, some of the stuff we planted in spring will hang around until the rains take over. If you keep on watering them, the impatiens tend to grow like a teenager, though—all legs and a bit disheveled at the top, but they still provide color.

Another old friend in the fall is Virginia creeper, which winds its way up a staircase or hangs from a tree all summer, then presents brilliant red leaves in the fall before the leaves make their exit for the winter. Dusty Miller is a pretty silver-leaved ground hugger, and looks lovely paired with salvia. Even dahlias will bloom until late fall. You do have the sense that dahlias don’t much like the fall, but they do it. Later, you can dig up the dahlia tubers (bulbs) and store them for the spring, or you can leave them where they are, and they do reasonably well the following year.

Two flowers see their glory in the fall: the chrysanthemum, and sedum spectacular, which unfortunately has to suffer with a Latin name, and no common name. The sedum is a deep rose color, and chrysanthemums come in lots of colors. Both want some space, and some sun, and get a little ugly about it if they don’t get both.

Another consideration is the oak leaf hydrangea. The flowers in summer are quite a sort—sort of triangular—and then the leaves themselves turn beautiful autumn colors. Since garden space is precious, it’s nice when a plant does double duty.

For a tree, think about the Japanese maple. It’s a stunner, especially if you choose it at the nursery in the fall so you know what color foliage you are going to have the next fall. It’s green in the summer, and provides lovely shade, but comes alive in fall with extraordinary colors.

Nan Warren is a member of the Glen Park Garden Club.

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Condos

Continued from pg 1

say that none have been sold and none are on the market now.

The website lists Borel’s Martha Johnson Mastracci as the financing officer, but she, too, did not know the status of the buildings.

The houses are not part of the complex of houses on the east side of Rousseau, between Rousseau and Milton, which was completed in 2001 and appears to be fully occupied.
Howard Reinstein
#1 Glen Park Agent

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GLEN PARK

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GLEN PARK

JUST LISTED: 127 ROANOKE
GLEN PARK

JUST LISTED 4348 CESAR CHAVEZ
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Letters to the Editor

Continued From page 2

other neighborhoods in the city) has been in the forefront of a national trend to rely on and enhance the powers of private police such as the Patrol Specials, to help out in the face of enormous City deficits which are only growing. Could it be that the Glen Park News is out of touch with reality and opposed to the Village’s true interest in knowing about meaningful current local news?

Ann Grogan
Subscriber, Glen Park Patrol Safety Program
www.glenparksafety.com
30 year resident on Chénery Street
Sept. 22, 2010

The Editors respond:

We pointed out to Ms. Grogan that we had in fact mentioned the Patrol Special program in Glen Park in the Summer issue of the Glen Park News, in the article about the Glen Park Festival, and noted the number of new subscribers (12) the program had netted there. Beyond that, we don’t know how many subscribers there are in Glen Park as Ms. Grogan has told us that number cannot be divulged due to security concerns.

In addition, we might also note a report by the City Controller’s Office released in September found that the Patrol Special

Dear Neighbors,

We have in our midst a generous person: she puts out a dispenser of poop bags and a bowl of water just behind her property, making dog walking more convenient in the neighborhood. In contrast, we also seem to have some incomprehensibly rude dog walkers here.

Apparently some demented soul(s) used one (or more?) of her provided poop bags and then brought it back full, leaving it near her offerings of free dog water and free poop bags. What was the thought process there? That she was a poop collector who was asking for specimens? Nah, that would be very unlikely. It is much more likely that she was just being nice, and hoped more folks would bother cleaning up their dog’s poop while out on a walk in any of Glen Park’s streets and lanes.

A week or so ago, apparently in response to somebody leaving the full bags of poop, she posted a sign that pleasantly said: “Dear Dog Walkers, Please take your used dog bags home to dispose of. Thank you.” And then she signed it with a first name and a smiley face.

A few days ago, it seems that somebody was so upset at this suggestion that they ripped up her sign! She says “please” and “thank you” for the pleasure of telling you to pick up your dog’s [droppings]. She didn’t even say “poop” or “s**t.” Just “dog bags.” And her note offended the person? Was it the same person who had left bags of s**t for her? Did they expect a “thanks to all of you who have so generously brought me little bags of dog s**t?”

Folks, help me here, what could possibly cause a person to be angered by her sign?

Most of us enjoy living in a “neighborhood” in the best sense, of having some sense of camaraderie. People are kind, and generally give each other the benefit of the doubt when there are little disputes. The only possibilities I can think of are: that these people are rude and mean, or, that they have mental illness. All the more reason for the rest of us to express kindness to our neighbors whenever we have a chance.

Carolyn Kernberger
Van Buren Street

real estate in glen park

by

Vince Beaudet

Residential properties sold at a steady clip in Glen Park over the summer. Here’s what sold in the neighborhood since our last issue in June.

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<th>Sold Price</th>
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Bird & Beckett Makes Pitch
For More Customer Support

by

Denis Wade

Running a neighborhood small business is usually a labor of love. After an initial rush of interest when a new business opens, entrepreneurs face the hard task of survival.

It’s easy to take Glen Park’s businesses for granted, given our low rate of vacant storefronts. But clichés and song lyrics apply: “Use it or lose it.” “You don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone.”

P atricia Cull and Jill Gazwowski ignored the odds and opened Glen Park Books in 1995. Three years later the Glen Park News reported that the bookstore’s future was very much in question. “We are extremely concerned about the survival of Glen Park Books,” they told regular customers. Faced with big chains and the Internet, we asked rhetorically, “What could these women have been thinking?”

Publicity and persistence turned the tide briefly, but profits were never enough to support both of their households and they sold the business to Eric Whittington in 1999. He renamed it Bird & Beckett after his jazz and literary favorites, Charlie “Bird” Parker and Samuel Beckett. A move to bigger quarters at 653 Chenery St. was made possible by an altruistic landlord.

Bird & Beckett has become a unique neighborhood cultural asset, with eclectic musical and literary events that draw throngs who—unfortunately—mostly don’t buy books.

Déjà vu.

“Laboring in a gasping economy, like so many of you, our sales have fallen off the cliff here at Bird & Beckett in these past six months or so,” Whittington told customers this fall. “We need to appeal to you to scrape together a few pennies to buy some of the marvelous books we stock.” Without raising average weekly revenues by 20–30 percent, he said, “we’re unsure how we can continue to meet the rent, payroll, utilities, etc.”

Now would be a good time to do some early holiday shopping. Save our bookshop, support our hardware store and our other neighborhood merchants.

Just $3 buys a used paperback. Even a couple of greeting cards could help keep Glen Parks vibrant bookshop-cum-performance space alive.

SFPD’s Ingleside Station Website Replaces E-mail

Ingleside Station has introduced a website—www.inglesidePoliceStation.com—where visitors can view messages from Captain Louis Cassanego and read the daily newsletter in pdf format. The newsletter will no longer be e-mailed to individual readers.

The Ingleside website contains up-to-date Community Meeting information, contact information for the most-used city resources, and personal safety tips.
A graduate of Harvard Law School and Deputy City Attorney, Scott has dedicated his time and his efforts to improving our neighborhoods.

A Record Of Results For Our Neighborhoods

Helping Families Stay In The City
Scott is working to make it easier for people to raise kids in San Francisco by ensuring safe neighborhood parks, streets, and playgrounds. Scott supports the reform of the school assignment system so that we maintain diversity in our schools while not forcing parents to transport their kids across town.

Improving Public Transportation
Scott rides Muni every day. Like other San Franciscans, he's tired of the late and overcrowded buses, the fare hikes and route cuts. That's why Scott supports Proposition G for real Muni reform that changes operator pay and work rules. Scott is endorsed by Rescue Muni, an organization dedicated to Muni reform.

Supporting Small Business and Neighborhood Beautification in Noe Valley
Scott served as president of his neighborhood association and will work hard to make Noe Valley as economically vibrant and walkable as possible. Scott will work with Noe Valley residents and merchants to fill vacancies on 24th Street, including Real Foods, to improve pedestrian safety, and to create the proposed Town Square in the Farmers Market parking lot. Scott's track record of getting things done, including his co-founding of a grassroots neighborhood safety organization and his key role in building the LGBT Community Center, has earned him the support of many Noe Valley leaders, including Debra Niemann, Bob Roddick, Gwen Sanderson, and Carol Yenne.

For more information, go to www.scott2010.com, email Scott at info@scott2010.com, or stop by Scott's headquarters at 538 Castro Street.

Scott Is Also Endorsed By
Supervisor Sean Elsbernd
Supervisor Carmen Chu
Ambassador James C. Hormel
Rev. Cecil Williams and Janice Mirkitani, Glide Memorial Church*
Leslie Katz, Former Supervisor
Wayne Friday, Former Police Commissioner*
Ari Smith, District Attorney of San Francisco (Ret.)
Debra Niemann, Executive Director, Noe Valley Association*
Bob Roddick, President, NV Merchants and Professionals Assoc.
Gwen Sanderson, Past President, NV Merchants and Professionals Assoc.
Carol Yenne, Past President, NV Merchants and Professionals Assoc.
Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club
Firefighters Local 798
San Francisco Police Officers Association
SEIU/United Healthcare Workers West
Janitors Union/SEIU Local 87
Rescue Muni
San Francisco Building & Construction Trades Council
Small Property Owners of San Francisco
Plumbers, UA Local 38
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 16
Teamsters Joint Council 7
Sign and Display Local 510
Plan C San Francisco

*Titles for identification purposes only.
community calendar

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. 12, 6–8 pm, Glen Park School, 151 Lippard Ave. This combined meeting of the GPA and the Neighborhood Parks Council includes a Candidates’ Night forum for District 8 Board of Supervisors candidates.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

The Friends sponsor a variety of activities to maintain and improve our neighborhood park and enhance our knowledge and enjoyment of the city’s natural wonderland. To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park or learn more about their activities, contact Richard Craib at 648-0862 or richcrab@gmail.com, or call Jean Conner at 584-8752.

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

Next date: Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18. Meet behind the Recreation Center. Tools, gloves and instruction are provided.

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

Birdwalk: Sun. Oct. 17, 9 am, free: David Armstrong introduces the Canyon’s feathered denizens. Bring your binoculars. Then stay for:

Pancakes in the Park: Sun. Oct. 17, 10:30 am, following the Birdwalk. $5 for pancakes, sausage, OJ & coffee. (Rain will cancel the walk and breakfast).

Geology Walk: Sun. Nov. 7, 10 am, free, rain or shine. Local geologist Gary Fie points out features of the canyon that most people walk right past.

SFPD Community Forums

Third Tuesday of every month, 7–8 pm, at Ingleside Police Station, John V. Young Way off San Jose Avenue. For details call the station at 404-4000, or visit the website InglesidePoliceStation.com.

All residents are encouraged to participate in these informative monthly Community Relations Forums hosted by Capt. Louis Cassanego, Ingleside Station’s commanding officer. Keep up to date on neighborhood police issues, get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe.

Next date: Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21

Glen Park Branch Library

Denise Sanderson, manager of the Glen Park Branch at 2825 Diamond St., lists other coming events in her column on Page 15. Check with the library for a full schedule. All programs at the library are free.

Following are a few of the events planned at our library:

• Baby Rhymes & Playtime: Every Tuesday, 10:30 am. Rhymes, stories and fingerplays, for ages birth–3 years.

• Preschool Videos: Mondays, Oct. 18 and Nov. 8, 10:30 am. Ages 3–5.


• Public School Kindergarten Workshop: Sat. Nov. 6, 3 pm. Find a public school for your child. Other Enrollment Workshops at various library branches, through Jan. 8.

• Soul Collage for Adults. Sat. Nov. 13, 3 pm.

• Lucha Libre Buttons for Teens: Thu. Nov. 18, 4 pm. Ages 12–18.

• Holiday Party and Crafts: Sat. Dec. 4, 2–4 p.m. All ages.

SOTA Remembers Mama

San Francisco School of the Arts (SOTA), 555 Portola Dr. at the top of Glen Canyon, presents the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical 1 Friendler Mamma on two weekends in November. The beloved turn-of-the-20th-century story is set in San Francisco. Ticket information at www.sfsota-pta.org.

Dates: Fridays Nov. 5 & 12, 7:30 pm
Saturdays Nov. 6 & 13, 2 pm &
3:00 pm
Sundays Nov. 7 & 14, 2 pm

Sunnyside Conservatory Events

If you haven’t gotten around to visiting the spectacularly restored conservatory at 236 Monterey Blvd., these autumn events provide opportunities for everyone. For information, visit www.sunnysideconservatory.org. These events are co-sponsored by Friends of the Sunnyside Conservatory and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

Pumpkin Carving: Sat. Oct. 30, noon–3 pm, free. Bring your own pumpkin. Carving kits and tools, including tools for older children, will be provided. Parents must supervise and accept responsibility for children.

Teresa Tudury + Friends: Fri. Nov. 12, benefit concert for the conservatory.

Doors open 6 pm, performance at 7 pm. “Part chanteuse, part comedian.” Info: www.testerutudury.net.

Recycled Card-Making Party: Sat. Dec. 4, 11 am–2 pm. Multi-media artist Monica Lee says bring old holiday cards, gift-wrap, calendars, magazines, and cardboard coffee sleeves to create handmade cards. Materials will be provided. Children must be supervised by an adult.

Foliage Exchange & Wreath Making: Sat. Dec. 11, 11 am–2 pm. Make a wreath or garland, create a holiday treasure. Bring clippings, cones, etc. from your yard to share and exchange, plus pruning shears, wire, coat hangers, ribbons, cones, etc. If you don’t have a yard, come anyway. Suggestion for kids: recycle broken miniature toys or action figures for your wreath (and bring an adult for supervision).

Bird & Beckett Events

Bird & Beckett Books & Records, 653 Chenery St., 586-3733.

Coming Events:

• Three book groups meet monthly, at 7 pm:


Political Book Discussion Group:


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.

Live Jazz in the Bookshop:

A neighborhood party every Friday, 5:30–8 pm.

1st Friday of the month: Don Prell’s SeaBop Ensemble featuring some of the Bay Area’s finest bop & post-bop players.

2nd Fridays: The Jimmy Ryan Quintet featuring Henry Hung, trompeter; Rick Elmore, trombone; Scott Foster, guitar; Bishu Chatterjee, bass; Jimmy Ryan, drums.

3rd Fridays: A quartet featuring Chuck Peterson, Scott Foster, Don Prell and Ron Marabuto.

4th Fridays: The Chuck Peterson Quintet (aka the 230 Jones Street Local 6 Literary Jazz Band.

Oct. 29: Special fifth-Friday booking: Al Molina’s Horace Silver Project.

Which Way West?: Every Sunday, 4:30–6:30 pm. This concert series features Americana roots bands, jazz groups, world music performers, classical music and more.

Oct. 9: Old-time music by The Knuckle Knockers.


Oct. 24: Ferhan Qureshi/Mallar Bhattacharya Indian classical duo.

Nov. 7: Mac Blackman, rockin’ New Orleans-style R&B band.

Nov. 7: The Alberts Russo Trio.

Nov. 14: Chris Eccles bluegrass case.


Nov. 1: Poets Carlos Suarez and Laura (LJ) Moore.

Literary Talks: Last Sundays. Check store for schedule.


Special Events:

Sun. Oct. 9, 2 pm: Poets David Meltzer, Sarah Menefee and Julie Rogers.

Wed. Oct. 13, 7 pm: Author Toby Ball presents his acclaimed debut Kabkaese thriller, The Vaults.

Sun. Oct. 17, 2 pm: Poet Michael Rothenberg reads from My Youth as a Train.

Sun. Oct. 24, 1 pm: A roundtable discussion on housing issues in the San Francisco Bay Area.


Mon. Nov. 1, 6:30 pm: Lynette Marie Yetter reads from Lucy Plays Panpipes for Peace.

Sun. Nov. 7, 1:30 pm: The Latif Harris/Phil Deal Real Jazz & Poetry Deal


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 at 285-9540. Programs include these:

Food Pantry: Every Friday, 1–2:30 pm, for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 ZIP code.

Pet Memorial Service: Sun. Oct. 3, 5:30 pm. Memories, photos and current pets are welcome at this popular annual service, now in its 4th year.

Fundraiser: Sat. Nov. 13, 6 pm, Celtic Night and Auction.