**Smoothing Out Sidewalk Hazards**

"It’s ugly, but it’s OK," said Jun Viray, as he pointed to a sidewalk square with a jagged crack across it.

Viray is a street inspector for San Francisco Public Works. Part of his job is to check out sidewalks and determine which flags, as squares are called, need replacing.

On this day, he was making a second run on the 200 block of Chenery Street, confirming which individual flags with white dots had not yet been repaired.

Like many Glen Park property owners, I arrived home one day to find a bunch of green X’s spray-painted on the sidewalk in front of my house. My next-door neighbor had both green X’s and white dots (a few barely distinguishable from bird droppings) on his sidewalk.

We learned that the green markings are the City’s responsibility, while the white ones require the property owner to make repairs. An occasional orange paint job, usually around a utility access cover, means the work is the responsibility of a utility company, usually PG&E or the phone company.

Since the Water Department, an arm of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, is a City agency, the flags affected by its pipes or meter covers get green paint.

Viray, an affable father of five wearing a bright yellow Public Works safety vest, agreed to show me what he looks for when he’s out doing his inspections.

The crack he classified as merely ugly didn’t need fixing, he explained, because the “lift,” or unevenness, didn’t exceed half an inch—a standard by which acceptable and unacceptable sidewalk defects are measured.

The same goes for holes and chipped or worn-away openings between squares, which also must be at least one-half-inch wide to earn a paint mark.

When he deems a flag unsafe, he takes a careful look at the ones immediately around it. If they’re fragile, his practiced eye tells him whether they can survive the replacement of the adjacent square. Breaking up and removing old concrete is a rough-and-tumble enterprise, so a series of innocuous-looking fractures can be a giveaway that a flag will crumble when work proceeds nearby. That merits a green X or a white dot.

Thanks to a voter-passed initiative called StreetTreeSF that went into effect on July 1, the damage to sidewalks caused by the roots of street trees is now the City’s responsibility. With older trees, especially, the sidewalk can buckle dramatically. In other places, it just shifts the level of individual flags.

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**GLEN PARK ASSOCIATION**
**QUARTERLY MEETING**
**Wednesday October 25**
**7 p.m.**
Glen Park Recreation Center

- 911: How it works and when to call.
- Recology: What goes where.
- Rec+Park: Update on rec center construction.
- Glen Park Greenway update.
- Supervisor Jeff Sheehy will attend.

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**StreetTreeSF Takes Root**

This past July, the City took over maintenance responsibility for San Francisco’s nearly 125,000 street trees under the new StreetTreeSF program—a game-changer for private property owners and the local urban forest.

The shift was recommended in the San Francisco Urban Forest Plan, a fact-filled document developed by the Planning Department and Public Works, in partnership with the Urban Forestry Council and Friends of the Urban Forest. The plan, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2015, painted a bleak picture of the current state of the local urban forest and laid out a vision for how to grow it and provide proper maintenance.

Planning’s Jon Swae and Carla Short, superintendent of the Bureau of Urban Forestry for Public Works, offered an
The Green Park Greenway offers ample opportunity for solace and action. It reminds us that we can be in service to beautiful things like strangers, neighbors, trees and bees. A great deal has happened with the Greenway in the past two years and much more lies ahead, so I figured this would be a good time to recap, look forward to a very busy winter, and share some really terrific, exciting news.

First, a quick recap of the past two years. The Greenway is the social trail beside Bosworth Street, west of the Diamond Street intersection. It begins beyond the unpaved parking lot at the intersection of Kern and Brompton streets and extends west for three blocks, widening behind St. John School and ending at Burnside Avenue, one block from Glen Canyon Park. Greenway parcels are variously owned by Public Works (SFPW), the Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), and the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Glen Park neighbors have long sought to landscape and maintain the Greenway, and a few even took it upon themselves to do so, picking up trash and pruning cape ivy over the years. In 2015, the GPA obtained grant funds to support landscape planning efforts for the Greenway. That same year, we held a series of community design meetings, as well as more focused meetings with neighbors who live on or near the Greenway. Workshop participants discussed, brainstormed, annotated sketches and worked with landscape architects. After three revisions, a Greenway Concept Plan was brought to a vote and unanimously approved by the GPA membership in January 2016.

Shortly thereafter, the GPA began to work with City agencies and the San Francisco Parks Alliance. We sought funds to implement elements of the concept plan, and met with arborists from SFPW. We organize quarterly work days and potlucks. (Email me if you’d like to participate in these at stephany.wilkes@gmail.com. I’ll be happy to report that SFPUC has agreed to install two water meters along the Greenway. The specific locations will be determined after a few more meetings.

That brings us, at long last, to tree planting. We have continued to do Greenway walkthroughs with SFPW arborists to identify dying and dead trees to be removed, so that we can plant new trees on the Greenway. Leon Jordijk, our landscape architect, will prepare a tree-planting plan to guide our efforts for the months and years ahead. We will also work with Friends of the Urban Forest on this Greenway planting project. I am thrilled to report that future Greenway work days will include tree planting, not just trash and fennel removal.

Trees need to be planted early in the rainy season and in advance of spring, so we hope to hold our first tree-planting day on Saturday, Dec. 9. Other work days, potlucks and planting days will be held in November, December, and January. I hope you’ll bring a dish to pass, and be ready, willing and able to put some carbon-sequestering acorns and saplings in the soil and, in so doing, take some small comfort in the long view.

Stephany Wilkes is vice president of the Glen Park Association.
Bruce Bonacker: A Life Remembered

Bruce Bonacker—architect, community activist, historic preservation advocate and longtime Glen Park resident—passed away on Aug. 3. He was 69 years old.

I had the pleasure of working with Bruce on many Glen Park planning, housing and historic resource issues. Bruce, in fact, was one of the main reasons I became active in the Glen Park Association, about 15 years ago, when we debated different sides of a local issue. We served together on the GPA board all the way up to 2017.

I wrote in my interview with Bruce in the December 2016 Glen Park News: “Bruce and I have sometimes disagreed on issues and strategies, but his opinions and counsel have been a big contribution to the Glen Park Association for many years. He twice served as GPA president, and is currently on the GPA Zoning and Planning Committee, and the Glen Park Greenway committee.”

I am the keeper of about six file boxes of GPA archives, and I decided to look and see what was on the record of Bruce’s contributions. The first folder I opened had the list of GPA officers for 1995. Bruce was listed as “Chief Noodge.” This is exactly who Bruce was, never needing a formal role to cajole, assert, remind or shake a finger, to take on City agencies, to push back on bad development, and to stand up for Glen Park.

Bruce was a longtime board member, with a stint as president, of San Francisco Heritage, the architectural preservation organization. He was known as the heart of that board, and its institutional memory. Bruce’s memorial service will be at the Haas-Lilienthal House, Heritage’s beautiful headquarters at 2007 Franklin St., on Saturday, Oct. 14. (RSVPs are requested at http://bit.do/Bruce-Bonacker.) Donations in his memory can be made to San Francisco Heritage.

Michael Rice is past president of the Glen Park Association.

FROM THE EDITORS

This news shouldn’t come as a surprise to Glen Park residents: Car break-ins have spiked 28 percent during the past year in San Francisco, with an average of 85 reported every day. All you need to do is follow the crime logs from Ingleside Station, which patrols Glen Park, and the point is driven home. In one recent week, thieves smashed car windows to pilfer goods on Brompton, Chilton, Chenery, Arbor, Beacon, Kern, Diamond and several other streets in our neighborhood.

There are several theories on why the increase is occurring. Among them: a Diamond and several other streets in our neighborhood.

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Michael Rice is past president of the Glen Park Association.
As summer comes to an end and we head into fall, I want to provide an update on the Glen Park items and issues my office is working on.

From community meetings to talking with neighbors on the street, the most pressing issues I hear revolve around public safety, and I take your concerns very seriously. Capt. Joseph McFadden and I recently met with dozens of neighbors at the Sussex Street group and had a productive discussion. To find out if there is an SF SAFE block group on your block, please contact SF SAFE at 415-553-1984.

As neighborhood safety extends beyond policing, I’ve been working with the SFMTA to evaluate the Diamond and Bosworth intersection for traffic efficiency and pedestrian safety. One improvement that has already been implemented involves changing signal timing to improve traffic flow. We continue to push other options to improve the intersection as well. In addition, we have been successful in getting additional stop signs on Diamond Heights Boulevard.

In the coming weeks, the City’s Fix-It Team will be coming to Glen Park to work in our neighborhood and improve local quality-of-life problems. By coordinating City agencies, we’ve had tremendous success in other neighborhoods, and we look forward to bringing this interagency approach to our local community.

The City identifies neighborhood “hot spots” based on 311 call data, so please always be sure to call in and report issues. For example, thanks to neighborhood feedback and involvement, we were able to secure funding for the Rec & Park department to complete the Dog Play Area at Walter Haas Park.

We know many neighbors are concerned with local land use and zoning matters, and specifically, a project at 43 Everson St. that includes the addition of an indoor basketball court. The Planning Commission has approved the project, but the project’s environmental review has been appealed to the Board of Supervisors. The appeal was scheduled for the Sept. 12 board meeting, but there was a possibility it would be continued to the 19th. I encourage you to share your thoughts during public comment at the board meeting, because we make sure to listen to all sides before reaching a decision.

The end of summer is bittersweet as our kids head back to school, but I thoroughly enjoy seeing and speaking with neighbors on my way to dropping off my daughter, Michelle, every morning. I hope your kids are enjoying their first few weeks back, and I wish them success this school year.

If you ever need anything in the neighborhood, I encourage you to reach out to my office at 415-554-6968, or please email me directly at jeff.sheehy@sfgov.org. See you in the neighborhood.

Supervisor Jeff Sheehy represents District 6, which includes Glen Park, on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.
New Acting Head Librarian Branches Out in Glen Park

Monica Castillo is a native San Francisco. She grew up and still lives in the Oceanview neighborhood, and graduated from Immaculate Conception High School and San Francisco State University. She did venture south for a master’s degree in library and information science from San Jose State.

Now she’s located at the Glen Park branch library, as acting director, replacing Katrin Reimuller, who has moved on to an administrative job in the library system.

The present-day library is much more than a collection of books, periodicals, CDs and DVDs, Castillo says, referring to the tech-oriented “they.” Librarians are tackling the misperception that “with digitalization, they think we’re obsolete; that is so not true,” she emphasized.

Castillo has worked as a “floater” librarian all over the city since 2012, at all 27 locations, and hopes to be considered when the library administration picks a permanent head librarian for Glen Park. She has been in our neighborhood since May 2016, as a part-time specialist in “adult services”—a loosely defined age bracket that stretches from recent graduates looking for jobs to senior citizens looking to get out of the house.

The programs include computer training for all levels of users, and crafts classes such as jewelry-making, stone-painting and making terrariums. For job-seekers, there are such services as templates for resumes and cover letters.

Reimuller has become the library system’s manager for the northeast district—“the classic San Francisco that you see on postcards.” Her new post is challenging, she says, but she admits to missing Glen Park, with all its moving parts. “It was like show time, like hosting a party every day, but everyone was coming to a different party.”

She especially misses the story-time sessions, which attracted as many as 100 kids and caregivers at a time, Reimuller said.

Castillo plans to continue the broader relationships that Reimuller set in motion during her 2½ years as head librarian, such as partnerships with Canyon Market, Destination bakery and local schools. There are know-your-rights meetings for immigrants, and special programs for the growing number of families with small children.

Unlike many library branches these days, Glen Park does not have much of a homeless population, but the branch does maintain a list of local food, lodging and shower programs.

Castillo says the library is open to all suggestions for additional programs, while not neglecting the patrons who come by to get books to take home, help with homework, access to computers, or just to sit and read for a while.

“Libraries are a vital resource,” Castillo said. “As our sign says, all are welcome.”

The Glen Park Branch Library has recently gone through some changes in staffing. Our former branch manager has been promoted to district manager in the northeast division of the San Francisco Public Library System. The staff at the Glen Park Branch Library wish Katrin Reimuller nothing but the best in all her future endeavors and appreciate the wonderful work she has done not only at the Glen Park branch but with the Glen Park community. We have strong ties with local merchants, schools and community stakeholders in large part due to Katrin’s excellent customer services skills.

As newly appointed acting branch manager, I wish to continue this legacy by marshalling our efforts in offering a wide variety of library programs that spark the interest and imagination of our patrons. This fall sees two major heritage months, Latino/Hispanic Heritage and Middle Eastern Heritage. As a result, we have tailored our upcoming programs to highlight the rich cultures these two communities offer.

Please visit the branch to pick up the SFPL Newsletter, along with our monthly schedule to check out these worthwhile and diverse offerings. You can always visit our website, www.sfpl.org/glenpark, to check in on your friendly neighborhood library.

In honor of Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month, the branch will be offering a salsa-making demonstration for tweens and teens on Thursday, Oct. 12. For adults, we will be making sugar skulls, an Aztec ritual dedicated to the commemoration of a dearly departed loved one, on Friday, Oct. 13. In honor of Middle Eastern Heritage Month, we held a hummus-making demonstration in mid-September.

In addition, we will be hosting a Write Your Own Resume workshop, and are one of 11 San Francisco Public Library locations to offer free college prep workshops (advance registration required).

In November, we’ve invited Future Perfect Machine, an innovative team of professionals interested in raising awareness of virtual reality through social interaction as a platform for creative arts, education, eSport and a host of other applications.

And finally, I’d like to highlight the fact that the library is wonderful place full of information and knowledge. We make a conscious effort to satisfy the needs of our community, and hope to see you walk through our doors as satisfied patrons happy to visit your friendly local neighborhood library.

Don’t forget to sign up on our webpage for our monthly eNewsletter to keep up with all our events.

Monica Castillo is the acting branch manager of the Glen Park Library.

GVALUE YOUR BUILDING

Gavin Coombs
Vice President
Paragon Commercial Brokerage
15 Year SF Market Veteran
Email Gavin GCoombs@Paragon-re.com
Broker #01351580

GLEN PARK LIBRARY HOURS

Monday/Tuesday 10-6
Wednesday 12-8
Thursday 12-7
Friday/Saturday 1-6
Sunday 1-5
Plans Revealed for Old Restaurant Site

The site of the now-shuttered Chenery Park restaurant, vacant since 2014, has been the subject of questions and speculation over its fate for the past three years. The owner of the property, Mary Painter, has engaged local architect Carl Scheidenhelm of SF-ARC, to draw up plans for renovating the building at 683 Chenery St. Scheidenhelm has shared preliminary drawings, emphasizing that they were subject to change after review by the Planning Department. The proposal calls for redeveloping the property for use as a high-quality restaurant on the Chenery Street side, and modernizing the building and bringing it up to code. On the Wilder Street side, there would be two studio apartments on the lower level and two one-bedroom apartments on the upper level.

There would not be garage space for the units, as the Planning Department doesn’t generally approve of indoor parking for this type of property, which is zoned as NCT (Neighborhood Commercial Transit-Oriented).

No zoning variance would be required for the proposed project, since the footprint of the property would not change. The requirement for outdoor space would be satisfied with a roof deck.

The design conforms to the City’s policy of promoting housing and businesses in high-density areas and transit hubs, such as downtown Glen Park.

After the Planning Department completes an initial review of the proposal, there would be a 30-day notification period to inform neighbors of the intent.

It would take six to nine months for final approval, so construction wouldn’t begin anytime soon.

Architectural rendering of the renovated restaurant site, as seen from Chenery Street (top) and the proposed apartments, as viewed from Wilder Street (below).

Drawings courtesy of SF-ARC
It’s that time of year again, the perfect time for planting. Fall is cool and sunny and followed by our rainy season, which will water your new plants in and save you lots of time and effort. Also, it’s a great time to rethink your garden and put in some striking new plants.

My garden is typical—some treasured favorites just don’t look good anymore. A fierce wind blew down a fence and destroyed about 20 feet of planting beds. A huge grass just gracelessly aged out of existence—digging it out was an effort.

Some plants just get tiresome. Recently I pulled out a bed of large, floppy crocosmia—they look great for about 20 feet of planting beds. A huge grass just gracefully aged out of existence—digging it out was an effort.

Some plants just get tiresome. Recently I pulled out a bed of large, floppy crocosmia—they look great for a month, then terrible for the rest of the year. I’m sick of tidying up after them.

Now I have to rethink the design of the garden, and I want to fill all those empty spaces with low-maintenance but interesting, colorful plants. Shrubs will solve many of these issues. Well chosen, they will add strong design elements and can provide striking contrast to perennials, succulents and grasses. Place them carefully so they don’t block the light, and think hard about their sun-shade-soil-water requirements.

Here are some suggestions for favorites that have always thrived in Glen Park gardens. Don’t forget the large grasses and the stately spiky agaves and yuccas—but the following recommended plants are all broad-leaf shrubs:

**Abutilon hybrids.** Flowering maple, bellflower, Chinese lanterns. Evergreen. Delicate-looking, airy, arching shrubs. Tough and easy to grow. Beloved by hummingbirds. Pendulous, bell-like flowers in delicate colors ranging from white through yellow, pink and red. Continuous bloom (can’t beat that!) Many varieties in different sizes, but in general do not plant in direct sun and provide some water in the dry season.

**Loropetalum.** Evergreen, drought-tolerant. Reliable, low maintenance, tolerant of clay soil. The most popular varieties have deep purple leaves with tinges of green. Small scented pink flowers.

**Pittosporum tobira Variegatum.** Evergreen. 10-15 feet. Low water. Sun or part shade. A tough shrub with small sweet-smelling white flowers. Mainly grown for the foliage, which looks good year round. Can be pruned to shape. The pittosporums are tough and useful “clean and green” plants, this one enlivened by green and white foliage.

**Rhododendron occidentale, Western azalea.** 5–15 feet. Deciduous. Slow growing. Large, luscious, fragrant pink and white flowers tinged with yellow. Regular moisture in the dry season and a protected cool spot under high shade - e.g., a large tree or high deck. Note that many rhododendrons and azaleas thrive in Glen Park conditions.

**Sambucus nigra ‘Eva’** (black lace elderberry). 6–8 feet. Deciduous. This gorgeous elderberry has finely divided black (yes, black) leaves. It has a sprawling airy form and will be covered in large panicles of dark maroon flowers in summer. Regular water. Tolerates clay soil. Indeed, there are many choice elderberries we can grow here.

**Spiraea vanhouttei (bridal wreath spirea).** Deciduous. Sun. 10 feet by 15 feet. Aply named, this arching shrub is covered in plumes of white flowers spring-summer. Drought-tolerant once established. An accent plant that needs a lot of room.


**Spiraea bumalda ‘Neon Flash’.** Deciduous. Part sun. Water in dry season. Bright green and burgundy foliage, reddish-pink flowers spring and summer. There are many spires for sale in local nurseries. Just note their requirements when you purchase one.

There are so many other choices, for instance Annabelle hydrangeas, with their huge white flowers; sweet-smelling, reliable summersweet (Clethra alnifolia); Ribes, our California lilac; viburnums, and on.

The best way to choose the right shrub is to understand where the sun and shade are in your garden and your soil type, and how much water you are prepared to provide the plant in the dry season. Check the plant out at the Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park, then go to a few nurseries and browse the shrub selection!


Kay Hamilton Estey is the Glen Park Garden Club columnist. If you are interested joining the club, contact her at kay.estey@gmail.com.
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beknownst to nearly all of us, Fairmount Heights and Glen Park have a significant link to aviation history through former resident Daniel J. Maloney. In 1900, Dan Maloney was living in a boarding house near Randall and Whitney streets. His stated occupation? Aeronaut.

Evelyn Rose While working as a groundskeeper for the Mission Zoo in today’s Glen Canyon Park (see Glen Park News, Summer 2016), Maloney saw the thousands of pleasure-seekers visiting the resort weekly to watch aeronauts ascend in high-flying balloons, risking their lives while performing trapeze stunts hundreds of feet up, then dropping back to earth using a primitive parachute.

Maloney’s “sky traveling” profession began when one of the scheduled aeronauts failed to show and he volunteered as a substitute.

Early rides were bumpy: on his fourth flight at Glen Park, he lost his grip on the parachute bar 40 feet up and fell to the ground, breaking a rib and lacerating his thigh. The previous week, Maloney’s balloon had caught fire, but he was able to parachute back to safety.

After Glen Park became a private picnic grounds under the Crocker Estate about 1901, he next set his sights on those new-fangled flying machines.

By 1904, Maloney was a test pilot for inventor Professor John J. Montgomery of Santa Clara College (now Santa Clara University). Barely mentioned in the annals of aviation history, Montgomery is credited by many with having achieved controlled flight in the first heavier-than-air craft.

It was Dan Maloney who suggested to Montgomery that his latest craft, named the Santa Clara, could be sent aloft via balloon and cut loose at 4,000 feet rather than be launched from a high hill. Maloney described his 20-minute experience as the first man to fly a fixed-wing craft at such an altitude: “... as I looked at the ground so far below me and realized I was sailing on a machine that weighed only 42 pounds … I was able to steer and turn and go up and down and I think I felt just about like a bird feels …”

On July 18, 1905, as Maloney sat astride the Santa Clara, Montgomery noticed a balloon handling line had become entangled around one of the glider’s wings during liftoff. He called out to Maloney to just ride the balloon back down, but Maloney was beyond earshot.

At about 4,000 feet, the suspension rope was cut and the glider was on its own. It soon became uncontrollable, dipping, swerving and overturning several times. The “brave and popular” Dan Maloney worked desperately to maintain control, then clung to the machine as it plunged to the ground in front of 2,000 horrified spectators at Santa Clara College. Tragically, he was killed on impact.

Devastated by Maloney’s loss and later delayed by the aftermath of the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, Montgomery pursued experimental flight only infrequently. In 1911, he was piloting his newest glider, the Evergreen. At only 20 feet off the ground, the craft stalled and Montgomery fell to the ground, hitting his head on an exposed bolt; he died soon afterward.

Despite their accomplishments, their premature endings—coupled with the emphasis of flight discovery on the East Coast—have deprived both of these extraordinary aeronauts from receiving the complete recognition they deserve. Fortunately, Montgomery’s original 1911 glider, the Evergreen, is on display at the Smithsonian’s Air and Space Museum of San Diego, and replicas of Montgomery’s 1884 glider, in addition to the Evergreen and the Santa Clara—piloted by Maloney—can be viewed at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos (www.hiller.org).

Evelyn Rose, chair and founder of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project, is documenting the histories of Glen Park and nearby neighborhoods. To learn more, visit www.GlenParkHistory.org. The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project meets every other (even) month, and offers history walks. Join the mailing list: GlenParkHistory@gmail.com. The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project is fiscally sponsored by Independent Arts & Media, a California nonprofit corporation.
The 20th annual Glen Park Festival will be held in downtown Glen Park on April 29, 2018. The organizers say that although the 2017 festival was a success, next year’s festival may be the last.

“Most of our festival committee members have been volunteering for years,” said Festival Committee Chair Rebecca Murray-Metzger, “and some are getting weary. We certainly have another year in us, but unless some new volunteers come forth from the community, I would expect next year will be the grand finale.”

Murray-Metzger added that residents and business owners from Glen Park and beyond are welcome to join the committee, which meets once a month from November through April. Those interested should contact inquiries@glenparkfestival.com or call 415-729-4059.

All proceeds from the festival are utilized by T-shirt sales, individual donations, festival sponsors and vendors.

Grant recipients must be either a nonprofit or public school educational institution serving some children from low-income families and located in or serving children from zip codes associated with the Glen Park neighborhood.

The grants also must be used for discrete projects, programs or capital outlays (grants to fund tuition/scholarships are not applicable). Grantees are given preference if they participate in the festival, either by hosting a vendor booth, donating to the raffle, participating in the organizing committee or volunteering on event day.

This year, 11 organizations submitted grant applications, requesting $13,700 in total. All applicants received an award; seven grants were fully funded and four were partially funded.

For the first time this year, a grant was provided to support another festival: the Christopher Park Festival on Saturday, Sept. 23, hosted by Diamond Heights residents in collaboration with the Recreation and Park Department.

Awards were granted to three preschools, enabling Glenridge Coop Nursery School to purchase new motor skills cushions and climbers, Noe Valley Nursery School to publish a children’s guide to Glen Canyon, and Centro Las Olas to purchase supplies for a “documentation center,” where children can reflect upon their creations.

Several local elementary schools also were among this year’s recipients. Thanks in part to festival grants, Glen Park Elementary will continue its Schoolyard Greening Project; Sunnyside students will have access to an online reading software program and personal copies of a children’s nonfiction magazine; Commodore Sloat will purchase an audio system; Jose Ortega will improve its Wellness Center; and Fairmount will continue its Education Outside program.

Two community organizations also were awarded grants this year, including Drawbridge, to support their Homeless Children’s Art Program, and Golden Gate Philharmonic to enable student members to visit a music camp.

Donations are welcome and tax-deductible. Interested sponsors and vendors can contact the committee at: www.glenparkfestival.com/supporters. Community organizations that wish to apply for a grant can do so on the website at www.glenparkfestival.com/beneficiaries. Applications become available in mid-March, and are usually due in late May.

This year’s festival included a dance stage with live music.

Photo by Rachel Gordon
Keeping in Step with First Friday

In 1967, as a freshly minted high school American history teacher only a few years older than my students, I thought briefly about leaving the classroom and becoming a tour guide.

Fifty years later I finally got my wish—I became a guide.

I met Chris Greene while researching a recent Glen Park News article about World War II Japanese-American relocation camps. She is a volunteer docent at the Presidio Officers’ Club, which has mounted an exhibit called “Exclusion: The Presidio’s Role in World War II Japanese American Incarceration.”

Greene has taught American history, too, and we bonded, as U.S. history teachers have a tendency to do.

“Would you like to be our tour guide?” Greene said. She didn’t have to ask twice.

Greene belongs to an informal group who call themselves The First Friday Walkers, which started in 2012. “It’s made up of a core group of 10 members who meet once a month and explore San Francisco neighborhoods,” she explained in an email.

Greene, who lives in the Marina, said the 10 women had been on 40 walks, including Hayes Valley, the Haight Ashbury, Cole Valley, Bernal Heights and the Mission. They meet for coffee before, then lunch after, each walk.

Before the Glen Park tour, Greene had emailed her friends about the highlight of our walk—Glen Canyon Park. “The Rec Center is the entry to the canyon where we will walk about a mile loop on its floor. It’s mostly flat and gorgeous—all shady forest, bubbling creek and riparian plants, carefully tended by the City parks department and neighborhood volunteers.”

So on Aug. 4, nine walkers and I assembled at Tyger’s, in the heart of Glen Park’s business district.

We began our exploration of Glen Park on Penny Lane. Sandwiched between Surrey and Sussex streets, the rutted easement was once a 19th-century carriage path. Over the last decade, neighbors have spruced it up with an assortment of California native plants.

Entering the pathway that separates Surrey and Sussex backyards, Eleanor Laney took in the habitat-friendly plants lining the route. “This is pollinator heaven,” she said. Laney lives in Palo Alto, and takes an interest in Monarch butterfly preservation. “A miracle, the good works of neighbors establishing this lane,” she said.

At Diamond Street, I gathered them beneath the Penny Lane street sign for a photograph.

“It seemed so appropriate to have a group of women from the ’60s pose on Penny Lane during the Summer of Love’s 50th anniversary,” Laney emailed later.

We then crossed Diamond Street at Sussex and headed for Ohlone Way, en route to for Elk Street and the newly refurbished Recreation Center. On Elk Street, beneath the Holstein cow sign at the park entrance, I told them about canyon cows and dynamite factories, about Islais Creek and Franciscan chert rock—the sorts of anecdotes that history teachers hook their students with, the sorts of stories at which Evelyn Rose and Amy O’Hair of the Glen Park Neighborhood History Project excel.

Oskar Rosas, a Recreation and Park director, met us at the Rec Center. He led the way through the remodeled facility. He showed off the refurbished gymnasion and escorted them along the hall, past the rock wall where Silver Tree day campers climbed.

“The Recreation Center is a gem in the Glen Park crown” Laney emailed. “Our group was touched to learn from Mr. Rosas that parents who had been campers at Silver Tree now give the same gift to their children.”

Exiting the Rec Center, the women were presented with another gem—nearly 70 acres of significant natural wilderness.

We strolled along Alms Road. Islais Creek trickled at our left, canopied by arroyo willow. Pink flowering currant, wax myrtle and red elderberry blossomed there. Sloped grasslands shadowed us to our right, marbled with coyote brush. California oak dotted the hillside. Chert rock outcrops perforated the ridge, camouflaging Berkeley Way and Crags Court.

I told the women about the Natural Resources Division’s riparian restoration efforts, and its land management and stewardship mission. I told them of the dead great horned owl that Friends of Glen Canyon Park volunteers found in March 2016, victim of second-generation rodenticide. I told them how coyotes still den here, and how a coyote was found this year at Douglass Playground, another victim of rodent poisoning.

Beyond the boardwalk and the seep, where pumpkin spiders preen during Halloween, I told them how this pristine landscape once was threatened by transportation “visionaries” who wanted to construct a freeway through it, and how they were thwarted by three neighborhood women, now honored by the Gum Tree Girls Trail, named for them.

The anti-freeway effort caught the attention of Nancy Slepicka, a retired Illinois small-town newspaper owner and one-time proprietor of an independent bookstore with her late husband Richard. Back in Illinois, she had partnered with the Audubon Society to maintain a sanctuary for birds. “It felt like home
when I learned of the Rec & Park’s volunteer work,” she wrote by email after the walk.

Slepicka moved here four years ago from Hillsboro, Ill., a town of 5,000, and now lives in Bernal Heights. "Places such as Glen Park and Bernal Heights feel like home."

We continued along Islais Creek, circling to its west bank. Behind us stood a hollowed-out tree where Glenridge nursery school children had fashioned a make-believe fairy house. Continuing, we came to a bridge. A pile of willow branches blanketed the creek bank, a deterrent placed there by NRD’s gardener, Steve Phillips, to curtail erosion.

Back on Alms Road, so named because 19th-century horse carriages took it to Laguna Honda Hospital, we eventually regained Elk Street, then turned on Chenery.

I caught up with Sandy Hunt. She lives in North Beach and emailed two days afterward that she was “pleased the city had invested so much in making Glen Park such a sweet place to live.”

“It was a ‘trip’ to compare the neighborhood with where I live,” she wrote. “What a difference. The parking! You are allowed four hours, compared to our two. And I saw no tour buses or tourists. Where I live, I am aware of both, as well as the increasing number of homeless.

“Fortunately,” Hunt added, referencing City Lights on Columbus Avenue, “we have a bookstore like yours.”

The subject of Bird & Beckett Books and Records had arisen during lunch, once we’d returned to Tyger’s.

Slepicka suggested the walking group make a donation to my favorite cause to show its appreciation. “Buy a book at Bird & Beckett,” I said.

“I appreciate that Glen Park supports Bird & Beckett and the Glen Park News,” she continued. “It represents and reinforces the important sense of place that is essential to community.”

Lunch done, a few of the women peeled off, but the day wasn’t quite over. Fifteen minutes later we arrived at the Crags Court Community Garden, at the end of the Crags Court cul-de-sac. “Of course we loved the walk along the willow-wrapped canyon and hearing your stories about the barn owls and other canyon fauna,” Laney wrote one day after the walk, “but the cherry on top of our Glen Canyon day was the visit to the Crags Court’s garden.”

The secret garden is nestled on a shelf on the eastern slope of Glen Canyon, and the best way to arrive is by foot.

Laney wrote: “Perched unexpectedly on a steep hill, the well-tended garden is blessed with the perfect climate, sun, water, breeze as evidenced by the robust health of ALL the plants. Raised beds of huge and colorful dahlias, speckled lettuce, cascading clematis were all enhanced by the gently falling summer drizzle.”

On a warm summer’s day, the women of the First Friday Walkers wrote another chapter in Glen Park history. They personalized it in a signature style.ÿ
Growing Community in a Garden

Perched high above the floor of Glen Canyon, the Crags Court Community Garden is a well-kept secret lodged between Glen Park and Diamond Heights that, for a few yards, runs parallel to the rim of Glen Canyon.

“The best way to access us is from the bottom of the canyon,” said Mary Devereaux, a retired City College bilingual teacher and Crags Court gardener. “We’re open to the public during daylight hours.”

The terraced garden boasts 18 garden beds serviced by 25 citizen-gardeners who grow such winter crops as lettuce, kale, spinach, beans, beets, chard, celery, red potatoes and carrots. There are ornamental dahlias, and honeybee hives.

Forgo arriving by automobile, and instead take Glen Canyon’s freshly graded Coyote Crags Trail. A short distance from the renovated Recreation Center, make a dog-leg up the canyon’s eastern slope. Pleasant paths and box steps ease the way.

A sign indicating Crags Court guides you. Search for a barn owl box mounted on a Monterey pine. When you see it, you’ll know you’re getting close. A few more steps and you’ll reach your destination. Once there, visitors will experience—as a plaque dedicated to the garden’s founder, the late Loretta Starvus Stack, inscribes—“beauty, joy and relaxation.”

With the imprimatur of the Recreation and Park Department, which supplies water and assisted in construction of state-of-the-art garden beds, the CCCG was the inspiration of Stack, a Glenridge resident. Today the garden is flanked by 1970s-style houses canopied by pines, some of which are succumbing to pitch canker.

“This ground wasn’t stable enough to build upon,” volunteered Leslie Moxley, who, like Devereaux, is a longtime CCCG gardener.

Devereaux and Moxley reclined on garden chairs one summer afternoon, reminiscing about what they’d accomplished over two decades. They looked across the canyon at a riparian corridor plush with wax myrtle and red alder. To their north, Sutro Tower peeked beneath ballooning clouds. As evidence of the instability of the ground, a chair listed downhill, tilting at a 15-degree angle.

Moxley lives in the neighborhood and Devereaux resides in Noe Valley. The garden, one of 35 under the umbrella of Park and Rec, is available to anyone in the San Francisco. “The City is invested in community gardens,” said Devereaux, who has been raising spinach, garlic, onions, peas and zucchini since 1996. “The City mandates that we provide an organic garden and use no harmful pesticides.”

The garden beds are laid out in rank-and-file order, allowing gardeners to wheelbarrow mulch and remove debris. Beds are raised so that gardeners don’t have to kneel. Three 50-foot hoses are spaced throughout the garden, which hugs the Crags Court cul-de-sac.

While it doesn’t have a locked gate, the garden is surrounded by a wooden fence. Several years ago, a driver plowed into it, “The City came out and repaired it,” said Moxley, who has been gardening since 1999.

Devereaux and Moxley have assumed the mantle of garden leadership, as secretary and coordinator respectively. Devereaux usually is there four days a week, while Moxley is there three—not just in the service of their own plots.

“There are common areas and each needs tending, such as trellises that require trimming,” said Moxley. “The hillside has to be weeded, as do the areas adjacent to the street fence.”

CCCG gardeners are expected to participate in three work days a year, which can include picking up debris, weeding, mulching and pruning in communal space. The common areas boast sunflowers, which play host to pollinating bees, as well as blueberries, apples and Meyer lemons awaiting picking.

“We even grow pumpkin plants,” said Devereaux. “During each fall harvest, we give pumpkins to children.” Kids aren’t strangers to the garden.

“Children from Glenridge Nursery School have climbed the trail for years,” said Devereaux, about the Glen Canyon co-op pre-school. “The kids begin to learn how to garden, to love the hoses and enjoy getting muddy.”

“We have a short waiting list of 30 gardeners now,” said Moxley, who oversees the list. “It’s foggy and windy this high, and isn’t optimum for summer crops such as tomatoes, corn and cucumbers.”

“Prospective gardeners can sign up on the Rec and Park website,” she explained.

Candidates eventually are routed to Moxley, and she shows no preference to neighborhood applicants. But tending annual fruits, flowers and vegetables requires commitment, and propinquity is a factor, as applicants are expected to work year round, keeping their plot and surrounding paths free of weeds.

“Each gardener pays $35 a year, for which they share garden tools, water and access to our shed,” she said. “They sign a contract that commits each to three days a year of common-area work time, a commitment to compost, remove garbage and plant no invasive species.”

“I’m the oldest gardener,” said Devereaux, who grows poppies, roses and daffodils in addition to vegetables. “With the canyon right here, I love the wildness of this place.”

The garden is prolific, gifting a bounty of fruits and vegetables. “We grow more than we can use,” said Devereaux, “and occasionally donate lettuce, kale and zucchini to the Martin de Porres House of Hospitality,” a Potrero Avenue soup kitchen.

As the sun began descending, Devereaux and Moxley surveyed eucalyptus duff, thistle, radish and lavender embroidered in a quilt of greenery stitching its way down the incline from the canyon’s crest. Above them a red-tailed hawk circled for rodents, possibly gophers that play havoc with the garden beds. Below them the chatter of Silver Tree children mingled with the melodies of songbirds.

“This place gives me such a sense of peace, so far away from the insanity on the other side of the fence,” said Moxley. ❖
Christopher Park Festival: a Time to Celebrate

Tucked away behind the Diamond Heights Shopping Center, with just an inconspicuous pathway connecting it to Diamond Heights Boulevard, George Christopher Playground—named for the city’s 34th mayor—is an exceptionally beautiful park with a bit of a cult following, especially among playground enthusiasts and our four-legged community members.

Situated on the western rim of Diamond Heights, it’s a perfect gateway for exploring Glen Canyon Park’s hiking trails. Yet due to its low visibility, many people in the area are not aware it’s even there. The 6.8-acre park features a softball field, a sand-floor playground, tennis and basketball courts, rest rooms and a community clubhouse.

The Friends of Christopher Park (FOCP) thought a festival would be a great way to raise awareness of the park. The San Francisco Parks Alliance and the Glen Park Festival committee agreed—they awarded FOCP grants to fund the first-ever Where in the World is Christopher Park? Festival!

The free festival will take place Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., and will feature live music, crafts and resource tables, as well as plenty of fun for children with bounce houses, scavenger hunt, prizes, reptiles, an SFFD fire engine, a doggie fashion show with MC Senator Scott Wiener, a pet photo contest officiated by Supervisor Jeff Sheehy, and more. Free parking will be available next door at the Police Academy, 350 Amber Drive.

The Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project will provide the history of Diamond Heights’ Red Rock Hill on a 1-hour walking tour. Everything from milk ranches to unrealized skyscrapers to Modernist architecture to a KGB drop site will be explored.

Little Artistas, the Glen Park kids’ art center, will organize a community art project. Music will be provided by community members including Eric Beatty and the Party Ants, the Pat Wilder Band, the Canyon Birds Jazz Trio, Jack and Johana Soulful House and, for children, local favorite Little Folkies.

To enter the dog fashion show, please email FOCP in advance of the festival and bring along your animal companion in his/her best doggie duds! To enter the photo contest, email FOCP a photo of your pet enjoying Christopher Park. Photos will be printed and posted for voting during the festival, with awesome prizes awarded!

The email address of the FOCP is friendsofchristopherpark@gmail.com.

The festival will not only be fun and serve to increase visibility for the park, it will call attention to community efforts to help shape the new playground design and bathroom renovation, scheduled to begin in 2018 and funded by the 2012 Park Bond. The FOCP has identified additional funding needs: repaving all the pathways in the park, refreshing the second bathroom (not funded by the Park Bond), installing mesh netting and foul-line extensions for the baseball diamond, and constructing a half-court basketball area.

The FOCP is grateful to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department for repaving the pathway around the softball field in August so that now it can be walked safely.

To learn more about the festival, view the schedule of events or to get directions,

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

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To become a member or to renew your membership, send a $10 check to: GPA, P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131. Please include your home address and email address for our records.

More information can be found at www.glenparkassociation.org.

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By appointment only
Smoothing Out Glen Park Sidewalk Hazards

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

so they fall out of alignment more than that crucial half-inch.

The City’s concrete contractors provide their own arborists to trim the tree roots so the paving can be replaced without the dangerous bulges and other pedestrian hazards. If Viray notes that the tree basins are too small, he marks new corners to let the contractor know the proper dimensions to enlarge those concrete-free areas.

Slope of the sidewalk from street to lot-line also figures into his calculations, Viray said. Under City codes, owners are responsible for maintaining the sidewalk from the edge of their property to the curb line, and the legal limit of the slope is one-third inch of rise per foot of width. So a sidewalk with no cracks but with an abrupt grade change also may be marked.

The curbs themselves, including disabled-access cuts, are the City’s problem, although some also may be marked at the same time so the contractors will fix them along with the neighboring sidewalk flags.

Before Viray and his spray-painting colleagues make their rounds, the owners of the property are notified that inspections will be undertaken. They are given a chance to do the work themselves, subject to City re-inspection, or to get a permit and hire a licensed contractor. Owners, not tenants, are responsible for rental property repairs on sidewalks in front of housing and businesses.

If the owner chooses, the City’s contractor will do the work replacing those flags with white markings while on the block, and charge owners for the work.

On this day, Viray was re-inspecting those squares to see whether repairs had been made, and marking the still-broken ones with white X’s to signal the contractors to replace them.

According to Michael Lennon, manager of the Public Works Inspection and Enforcement Division, some demands for repairs come from individual complaints by residents. Others, especially those affecting multiple blocks in a neighborhood, are part of the Sidewalk Inspection and Repair Program, which covers about 200 blocks a year.

The inspection team recently focused on Glen Park, marking sidewalks throughout the neighborhood.

The department has three separate concrete companies under contract. Cost to an owner if the City contractor does repairs is about $100 or slightly more per flag. Other administrative fees also may be applied, and the bill may be paid directly or as an add-on to property taxes.

“The goal is to improve overall sidewalk conditions and reduce tripping hazards,” Lennon told the Glen Park News. Repaving is done for compliance with safety requirements and is “not intended to replace full frontages for aesthetic purposes.”

Lennon said that “the goal is to inspect each block once every 25 years,” which means that if you have marked-up sidewalks today, inspectors with paint cans, or whatever technology replaces paint cans, will be back by 2042.

Concrete is poured for new sidewalk squares on Diamond Street.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

Jun Viray, a Public Works street inspector, describes the markings on sidewalk squares that need to be replaced on the 200 block of Chenery Street. The green marks mean the City will replace them; the white marks mean replacement is the owner’s responsibility.

Photo by Gail Bensinger

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661 Chenery Street, Glen Park
StreetTreeSF Takes Root to Care for the Urban Forest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

overview at the Glen Park Association’s quarterly meeting in July.
They conveyed a lot of statistics about current conditions and the proposal for the City’s street trees. There are 700,000 trees overall in San Francisco, including those in the National Recreation Area and parks. The street trees are those found curbside and along roadway medians.

San Francisco has 13.7 percent tree canopy, which ranks us 20th among urban areas in the United States. As if that weren’t enough, the tree population is on the decline, as new plantings are not keeping up with tree removal and mortality.

Until approval of Proposition E—with 79 percent of the voters in favor—the budget for street tree maintenance had declined steadily over the past decade, plummeting to $2 million annually. The average pruning cycle had grown from five years to 12 years, compounding the threat to tree health and safety.

Short explained that the $19 million annual carveout from the City’s General Fund for StreetTreeSF finally will provide the resources that Public Works needs to provide regular, top-quality pruning and other tree care, as well as to keep sidewalks in good repair to reduce tripping hazards. The annual funding, now rooted in the City Charter, will go up with cost-of-living adjustments.

The plan is to focus on the worst first—the trees in the poorest condition.

The City recently conducted a comprehensive street tree census that identifies the location, species and condition of each tree. The findings can be accessed at http://sf-planning.org/ everytreeSF. The information is being used to prioritize the maintenance work.

Top priority is trees that are dead or have a major structural defect or broken branches. Next will be those that pose issues of clearance over roadways, or interfere with street lights, power lines, etc. Last, healthy trees will be assigned a pruning cycle of three to five years. To report problems with a tree, contact 311.

Priority for sidewalk repair will be given to areas near hospitals, senior centers, bus stops, schools and neighborhood commercial districts—basically, high-volume pedestrian areas.

People who wish to continue to maintain their street trees and retain responsibility for sidewalk damage caused by their tree can opt out of StreetTreeSF. The legal process for doing that is being crafted by the City Attorney. Property owners still will need to secure permits to plant or remove a street tree under the new system.

In addition to calling for a sustainable funding source for tree maintenance, which Proposition E accomplished, the Urban Forest Plan also recommended growing the street tree population by 50,000 by 2035.

While StreetTreeSF pays for tree care, it does not fund tree planting. The City currently has some money for that, including gas tax revenue; private donations also are used. A study will be done to identify potential funding sources to replenish and expand San Francisco’s urban forest.

The takeaway from all this change: Be patient!
Summary and links for details of the plan are at http://sf-planning.org/ urban-forest-plan. More information on StreetTreeSF, along with a Q and A, can be found at sfpublicworks.org/trees.

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Glen Park Elementary School

Here we go! The 2017–18 school year is off and running already. We hope everyone had a relaxing summer and came back to school rested and recharged for the new year.

Glen Park welcomed a new crop of kindergarteners who are already settling into the routines of the Big Blue School. Four teachers also joined our skilled staff: Sally Swift, Dulce Baron, Nicole Wicks and Christine Leishman. Welcome!

Our first event of the year was the back to school clean-up day. Dozens of volunteers came on the Saturday before school started to get things ready for the teachers and students to return. Parents and kids painted the benches on the yard, weeded and mulched the garden, and spruced up the chicken run for our feathered friends. A group of incredibly caring parents even cleaned out the teachers’ lounge, buying new chairs and blinds, and beautifying the space with potted plants. The school was shining and clean when everyone came back from summer.

Big thanks go out to the Glen Park Festival committee for the $1,500 grant that Glen Park School received. We will partner with Friends of the Urban Forest to remove concrete, create 400 feet of sidewalk gardens, and plant nine trees.

This project is an exciting extension of the school’s greening projects, which have expanded significantly in the past few years with the support of the PTO and dozens of student and parent volunteers. Other projects included the creation of the garden and outdoor classroom in 2013; biannual garden workdays; land-scaping around the school yard and along the Lippard Avenue side of the school, and the coop and run for our famous chickens.

Join us for our Fall Carnival on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the schoolyard. We’ll have carnival games; maker crafts; a giant bouncy obstacle course; a raffle; live music, and fantastic Latin food. The Carnival is free and open to all. Come see what the Big Blue School is all about!

Katie Ripley is the communications chair of the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization. For updates on school events, go to glenparkschool.org. Follow us on Facebook at http://facebook.com/glenparkschool.

Sunnyside Elementary School

We hope all Glen Park families are having a great start to the school year. We at Sunnyside are excited about getting back to class and about the school year ahead. The energy at school the first day was fantastic as students, parents and teachers alike were reunited for a new school year. We are looking forward to another amazing year.

The first morning circle of the year was filled with extra energy as everyone was excited to learn about and witness the solar eclipse. Our lessons were spearheaded by Joelle Capitan, a former teacher at Sunnyside, who rejoins our team after getting her master’s degree in mathematics education and obtaining experience in complex math instruction. She will spend the year supporting our teachers as a math and science teacher coach. We feel very lucky to have her back.

The kids were so impressed with the activities and the view (with ISO-approved glasses, of course!). What a great way to start the year!

As soon as the eclipse was behind us, the PTA got to work collecting all of the glasses to send to Astronomers Without Borders, which will forward them to schools in Asia and South America for a solar eclipse in 2019. If you have any glasses sitting around that you would like to donate, feel free to stop by Sunnyside Elementary and drop them off in the collection bags in the main office.

As usual, the start of the year is busy with lots of organizing, which includes our sports teams. We are getting soccer teams, baseball teams and more set up, which helps our school community intersect with our neighborhood community. For the fourth year in a row, we will have many soccer teams practicing in Glen Canyon Park on Friday afternoons. If you happen to be at the park on Fridays, stop by, say hello and cheer on our student athletes.

While the school year has just begun, we are already all set for our tours for next year’s incoming kindergarten families. Tours start in October and will take place every Wednesday through the fall. If you are interested, please check the school website for information and sign-ups.

Jessica Wallack-Cohen is president of the Sunnyside Elementary School Parent-Teachers Association. For more information about the school, see www.sunnysidek5.org.

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Katie Ripley is the communications chair of the Glen Park Parent Teacher Organization. For updates on school events, go to glenparkschool.org. Follow us on Facebook at http://facebook.com/glenparkschool.
Diamond Heights has been revitalized by all the improvements in process by Public Works, the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA) and the Public Utilities Commission along our Boulevard. The needed improvements include new sidewalks where none existed, new ADA curb ramps at all intersections, new bus stop pads, and replaced water pipes in the 5100 and 5500 blocks.

The final phase of construction, repaving Diamond Heights Boulevard, was scheduled to begin Sept. 11 at the Clipper Street intersection and wrap up with the stretch between Berkeley Way and Sussex Street about Oct. 20. The new crosswalk midblock at the shopping center, with pedestrian-activated flashing lights, is also to be completed in September.

We are extremely grateful that MTA is planning to install stop signs on Diamond Heights Boulevard at Diamond Street at the intersection up the hill from Noe Valley. The resulting 3-way stop will provide improved safety for pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists.

Diamond Heights Sidewalk Celebration: In appreciation for the new sidewalks in the neighborhood, the Diamond Heights Community Association partnered with Public Works to present a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 23. Speakers praised all the new sidewalks, but particularly singled out the one on the north side of the boulevard above Clipper Street for providing an accessible path of travel for the many users of wheelchairs who live nearby in Casa De Vida. Residents expressed appreciation for the way the new sidewalk has changed their lives.

Neighborhood Celebration of Life for Mike Lefiti: More than 100 people gathered at Saint Aidan’s Church on Aug. 19 to honor Mike Lefiti, the UPS driver killed in the horrible shooting at the UPS building in Potrero Hill on June 14. Amid many tears and much laughter, attendees watched a slide show created by his family and heard Diamond Heights residents tell stories about their interactions with Big Mike, or Mikey as he was known in the community.

Each speaker described Mike’s genuine and immense impact on the neighborhood, citing examples. Mike called people by name and asked after their family members, also by name. After learning a woman’s dog was missing, he soon arrived with the dog in his truck. Mike was described as a strong, big-hearted man, and a role model for us all to take time to lift people’s spirits and connect with everyone. After the gathering, two benches were dedicated at the Diamond Heights Shopping Center in loving memory of Mike. He lunched there daily on his route and was much loved by all the staff and those who frequent the center. The benches were donated by the shopping center.

Middle Eastern Food Festival: Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church, 5200 Diamond Heights Blvd., will hold its 22nd Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. The festival will feature live music; craft beer and cocktails; a hookah lounge; Arabic cultural dancing; delicious home-made Middle Eastern food; church tours; henna tattooing; a photo booth; entertainment for kids; and much more. Admission is $5. Free tickets for community members are available by registering at www.eventbrite.com; enter Middle Eastern Food Festival.

Cutting the ribbon during the celebration for the new sidewalk on Diamond Heights Boulevard were Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru, State Sen. Scott Wiener, Betsy Eddy, Supervisor Jeff Sheehy, William Kilburn, Nicole Bohn and Dadisi Najib.

Photo courtesy of Public Works

Mike Lefiti’s children sit on one of the new benches dedicated to him at the Diamond Heights Shopping Center.

Photo by Harry Breaux

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

“Marc is extremely professional...”
He was also very considerate and patient in answering all of my questions. In addition, he is well-connected, which allowed me the opportunity to get a special, personal tour of a beautiful historic building, and a sneak peak at units before they were about to be listed. I never felt pressured. I highly recommend him to anyone who is buying or selling a home in San Francisco.” –E.W., Buyer

As a Glen Park resident I really do know how best to market your property. I can help you from preparing your home to put on the market through the close of escrow and everything in between. Check out my real estate column in this newspaper! –MARC DICKOW

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A portion of each of Marc’s commissions go to fund projects for his Core Concern: THE RUTH ASAWA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

GLEN PARK DENTAL
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Call 415 • 585 • 1500
to schedule your appointment today!
*mention the Glen Park News and get a free home whitening kit!*
A little at a time and in a day or two, without having to remodel this or tear that they can do along the way to program. And should continue to be so for the foreseeable future.

Home Improvements

Now, back to our regularly scheduled program.

Clients are always looking for things that they can do along the way to keep their homes looking up-to-date without having to remodel this or tear out that. Many things can be done a little at a time and in a day or two, and you can do them yourself. Here are just a few.

Brighten up your front door — it’s the first thing people look at. A fresh coat of paint can change the whole feeling of the front of the house. Adding new hardware, such as door handles and locks, can really make a difference. You might think about a keyless entry system. If you have a gate in front of the door, you can give that a fresh coat of paint as well, or even remove it altogether, depending on how you feel about the added security.

Speaking of security, home cameras and video doorbells have come a long way. The new systems can look quite attractive and can help you keep an eye on who is at the door and when they ring. How about changing the light fixture over the mirror, or adding a frame around the mirror, or replacing the mirror altogether if it’s not too difficult? Put a new countertop on your vanity. This is not as hard as it might sound, as long as it is measured and cut correctly. Install a new bathroom fan, too — older ones are loud and probably not as effective as the newer models.

Stain your deck. Now is a great time to do it, while we still have our San Francisco summer to enjoy beautiful weather. Once the rains come again later in the year (keep your fingers crossed), it will be protected from the elements.

Keeping your home looking updated will go a long way when and if it ever comes time to sell. Instead of having to do a lot all at once, you’ll have less to do at the last minute. But more than that, do these things for yourself, so that you can enjoy your home even more.

I’m pleased that this is an interactive column answering questions that you have and writing about topics that are of interest to you as a reader. You can send questions or topic requests to news@glenparkassociation.org, marc@opni.com, or The Glen Park News, 2912 Diamond Street #407, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Marc Dickow, a Glen Park resident, is the Broker/Owner at Core7 Real Estate. He can be reached at marc@opni.com, or by phone at 415-722-4018. His website is www.Core7RealEstate.com/Marc.

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### GLEN PARK REAL ESTATE

**Single-Family Homes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>SALE DATE</th>
<th>DOM</th>
<th>LIST PRICE</th>
<th>SALE PRICE</th>
<th>SP/LP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 Laidley St</td>
<td>5/18/17</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>$5,500,000</td>
<td>$5,400,000</td>
<td>98.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76 Lippard Ave</td>
<td>5/18/17</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>$1,295,000</td>
<td>$1,325,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>$1,095,000</td>
<td>$1,300,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>17</td>
<td>$1,695,000</td>
<td>$1,720,000</td>
<td>101.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Laidley St</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>$1,695,000</td>
<td>$1,862,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>140 Fairmount St</td>
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<td>$2,200,000</td>
<td>$2,200,000</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>57 Arbor St</td>
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<td>$2,195,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1265 Bosworth St</td>
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<td>207</td>
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<tr>
<td>152 Fairmount St</td>
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<td>106.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>536 Laidley St</td>
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<td>$1,048,000</td>
<td>$1,250,000</td>
<td>119.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 Martha Ave</td>
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<td>$2,495,000</td>
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<td>94.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Harper St</td>
<td>7/14/17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$998,000</td>
<td>$1,210,000</td>
<td>121.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Hillitas Ave</td>
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<td>$1,795,000</td>
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<td>130.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>235 Surrey St</td>
<td>7/19/17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$1,395,000</td>
<td>$1,755,000</td>
<td>125.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>354 Arlington St</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>293 Surrey St</td>
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<td>$1,162,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 Arbor St</td>
<td>7/24/17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>$2,399,000</td>
<td>$2,800,000</td>
<td>116.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>537 Laidley St</td>
<td>7/28/17</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>$3,895,000</td>
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<td>97.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161 Randall St</td>
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<td>$1,995,000</td>
<td>$2,152,000</td>
<td>107.87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Condominiums/Multi-Unit Buildings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>SALE DATE</th>
<th>DOM</th>
<th>LIST PRICE</th>
<th>SALE PRICE</th>
<th>SP/LP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57 Wilder St #403</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>119.10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>407 Miguel St #1A</td>
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<td>$625,000</td>
<td>$725,000</td>
<td>116.00%</td>
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<td>197 Randall St</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>$949,000</td>
<td>$980,000</td>
<td>102.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>197 Charles St</td>
<td>7/14/17</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>$899,000</td>
<td>$899,000</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-80 Malta Dr #78</td>
<td>7/28/17</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$1,092,000</td>
<td>$1,225,000</td>
<td>118.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>253 Randall St #1</td>
<td>8/3/17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$949,000</td>
<td>$935,000</td>
<td>98.52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DOM - Days on market | SP/LP - % over list price
**COMMUNITY CALENDAR FALL 2017**

**Mondays**
Decorate the Fridge  
Every Week, 10-11:30 a.m., Glen Park Library  
Craft programs geared for children 18 months-4 years. Please dress in your oldest pre-stained clothing.

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

Poetry with Open Mic  
First and Third Monday of the month, 7-9 p.m.  
Bird & Beckett  
Poets read, followed by open mic. See BirdBeckett.com for more details.

Roots, Jazz & American Music  
Second Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m.  
Bird & Beckett  
Second Mondays, we’re hosting a jam session for the incoming class of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music’s brand new jazz BMUS (Bachelor of Music) degree program. See BirdBeckett.com for more details.

**Tuesdays**
Family Storytime  
Every week, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Glen Park Library  
Books, songs and fun for children of all ages.

Knitting Circle  
Every Monday, Glen Park Library  
SFPD Community Meetings  
Third Tuesday of the month, 7-8 p.m., location varies  
(March 21 meeting will be held at the SFPD Academy, 350 Amber Drive)

Ingleside Station’s commanding officer, Capt. Joseph McEachen, hosts a Community Relations Forum. Keep up to date on neighborhood police issues, get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe. For information, visit the website at InglesidePoliceStation.com or call the station at 415-404-4050.

California Native Plant Society  
Every week, Noon-3 p.m., Glen Canyon Park  
Volunteer activities include weeding, planting and general maintenance. Please wear closed-toed shoes, long pants and layers. The event will occur rain or shine. To RSVP, email recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org or call 415-831-6335.

**Wednesdays**
Friends of Glen Canyon Park Work Parties  
Every week, 9 a.m.-noon.  
Meet behind the Rec Center off Elk St. Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Volunteers. A welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Volunteers are welcome to work in the canyon with the Recreation and Park Department’s Natural Volunteers.

Book a Librarian  
Every Week, 4-5 p.m., Glen Park Library  
Computertechology assistance. Call 415-355-2985 for an appointment.

Diamond Diners Lunch and Social Hour  
First Wednesday of the month, Noon-1 p.m.  
St. Aidan’s Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive

LEGO Free Play  
First Wednesday of the month, 2-4 p.m.  
Glen Park Library

Bird & Beckett Book Club  
Second Wednesday of the month, 7-9 p.m.  
Bird & Beckett  
A book is discussed each meeting. Participants choose the next book to be discussed. For more details.

**Thursdays**
Tweem Time  
Every week, 3-3:30, Glen Park Library  
Tremendous homework help and occasionally play video games

Randy O’dell presents…  
First Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Bird & Beckett  
Resilient Diamond Heights  
Fourth Thursday of the month (November meeting will be on fifth Thursday), 6-8 p.m., St. Aidan’s Church  
For information, call 415-285-9300, ext. 3

**Fridays**
Food Pantry  
Every Week, 1-2 p.m.  
St. Aidan’s Church, 101 Gold Mine Dr.  
Free Food Pantry for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 zip code. One of the community activities St. Aidan’s hosts. Others include yoga, Overeaters Anonymous and other community groups. For details, visit www.staidans.org or call 415-285-9540.

Jazz in the Bookshop  
Every week, 5:30-8 p.m., Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery St.  
A neighborhood party every week, with live jazz. $10 per adult suggested donation; kids welcome and free! See birdbeckett.com for performers.

Saturdays  
Jazz Club  
Every Week, 7:30-10 p.m., Bird & Beckett  
A weekly jazz concert series. $10 cover charge. Free food at the beer; wine and beer available. See birdbeckett.com for performers.

Habitat Restoration Work Parties  
Third Saturday of the month, 9-11:30 a.m.  
Meet at the Glen Canyon Rec Center off Elk Street Join the Friends of Glen Canyon Park and SFPARD gardeners for a volunteer work party of weeding, pruning and planting. For more information, email recparkvolunteer@sfgov.org or call 415-831-6335.

Sundays  
DIY Kids  
Every week, 1-2 p.m., Glen Park Library  
A craft program geared for children 7-12.

**Weekend**  
**Happy Hour Show - The Lazy Governors**  
5-6 p.m., Bird & Beckett  
A weekly jazz concert series. $10 cover charge. Free food at the beer; wine and beer available. See birdbeckett.com for performers.

**October 16**  
Yoga in the Sunnyside Conservatory  
6:30-8 p.m., Sunnyside Conservatory  
(See September 26)

**Saturday, October 21**  
Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project  
Special Meeting  
3:30-5:30 p.m., Glen Canyon Park Recreation Center Community Meeting Room.(Meeting place tentative Check www.GlenParkHistory.org/events) Join us to celebrate the Glen Park women who, between 1958 and 1970, saved Glen Park and Glen Canyon from freeways. Suggested donation $10.

**Tuesday, October 24**  
Yoga in the Sunnyside Conservatory  
6:30-8 p.m., Sunnyside Conservatory  
(See September 26)

**Wednesday, October 25**  
Glen Park Association Quarterly Meeting  
7 p.m., Glen Park Recreation Center, Agenda include: Glen Park Greenway project. Supervisor Sheehy will participate.

**Thursday, October 26**  
Eric Shifrin  
7:30-9:30 p.m., Bird & Beckett  
**Friday, October 27**  
Day of the Dead Altar  
(Latino Hispanic Heritage)  
3:30-4:30 p.m., Glen Park Library

**Sunday, October 29**  
A Trestle Run Through It: Early Days in Glen Park Village  
9-11:30 a.m., meet at Glen Park BART station  
1.8-mile walk with historian Evelyn Rose back through time to learn about the history of Glen Park that set the foundation for its character. Suggested donation $10. RSVP: GlenParkHistory@gmail.com.

**Saturday, November 4**  
Sunshine History Walk: The Early Years  
11 a.m.-1 p.m., meet at Glen Park BART station  
On this 1.5-mile walk with Sunshine History Historian Amy O’Haire, explore aspects of life in Sunnyside during the first decades. Suggested donation $10. RSVP: SunshineHistory@gmail.com.

**Exploring Virtual Reality**  
11 a.m.-1 p.m., Glen Park Library  
Registration required. Please call 415-355-2858 or visit the library information desk to register.

**Monday, November 6**  
Sunnyside Neighborhood Association  
Quarterly Membership Meeting  
7:30-8 p.m., St. Finan Bar Community Room, 415 Edna Street

**Friday, November 10**  
“Rescue Me”  
7:30 p.m., St. Aidan’s Church  
A new musical comedy for kids and adults. For more information, see www.staidans.org.

**Saturday, November 11**  
“Rescue Me”  
7:30 p.m., St. Aidan’s Church  
(See November 10)

**Monday, November 12**  
Sunnyside Conservatory Work Party  
9 a.m.-12 noon, Sunnyside Conservatory  
Come out and show the Conservatory some TLC.

**Modern Diamond Heights**  
10 a.m., Burmese jade playground West of Diamond Heights Shopping Center  
Explore the history of Red Rock and Gold Mine Hills on a 1.5-mile walk with historian Hannah Simonson. Suggested donation $10. RSVP: GlenParkHistory@gmail.com.