Scofflaw Scavengers Spark Debate

It’s 2 o’clock on a still spring morning in Glen Park. It’s so quiet, the streets are so empty, it almost seems as if the sleepy neighborhood exists in a bubble of pure peace. Maybe that’s because our blue recycling bins already have been raided during the day. Officer Miguel Gonzalez scoured the deserted neighborhood in his patrol car, searching in vain for someone to cite for recycling theft.

The readily accessible (and recently transferred) Capt. Denis O’Leary tried in his waning days as commander of the SFPD’s Ingleside Station to respond to increasing pleas by residents to do something about what was becoming an intolerable nuisance: Scavengers rummaging through their recycling bins, and fleets of trucks rumbling through the neighborhood laden with stolen bottles and cans.

The trespassing, and the noise and litter left in its wake, had become one more urban woe. So in April, Capt. O’Leary and his successor, Capt. David Lazar, assigned a detail to patrol Glen Park between 2 and 6 a.m., with the purpose of citing the offenders with infractions. Due to budget problems, continuation of the patrol through May was not possible.

The readily accessible (and recently transferred) Capt. Denis O’Leary tried in his waning days as commander of the SFPD’s Ingleside Station to respond to increasing pleas by residents to do something about what was becoming an intolerable nuisance: Scavengers rummaging through their recycling bins, and fleets of trucks rumbling through the neighborhood laden with stolen bottles and cans.

The trespassing, and the noise and litter left in its wake, had become one more urban woe. So in April, Capt. O’Leary and his successor, Capt. David Lazar, assigned a detail to patrol Glen Park between 2 and 6 a.m., with the purpose of citing the offenders with infractions. Due to budget problems, continuation of the patrol through May was not possible.

Poachers, pirates, thieves. The downtrodden, the unlucky, the oppressed. Whatever you call them, they’re taking our salable recycling.

Glen Park is considered a particular hot spot based on the number of complaints. And it’s no wonder. We have the ideal location. We’re a minute from the freeway, an easy sweep in and out. Compare that with the Richmond District or other neighborhoods where trucks have no access for a quick getaway. Another plus if you want to steal recyclables is that most of Glen Park’s pickups are on Monday or Tuesday. A lot of garbage is generated on weekends. Think 49ers game (bottles, cans), shopping (paper, cardboard), special events and gatherings—trash heaven in Glen Park starts on Sunday.

It’s a fair guess that in years past people didn’t think much about their garbage, especially after it was hauled away to wherever it went. Now, far from being forgotten discards, the contents of our blue bins are the objects of a literal scavenger hunt by those who would make a living, and those who would barely scrape by. Among residents, recycling theft is a polarizing issue.

This issue has it all. A poor underclass struggles to make it in tough times in an expensive city. A business tries to remain viable when a major source of income is steadily being eroded. The police set priorities and make difficult choices about enforcement against increasingly organized criminal activity. The City and its residents take a stand for responsible stewardship of the environment. People take sides on all of this and end up arguing different points on moral grounds.

In the simpler days of 1989, when the recycling program began, residents brimmed with optimism over the forward thinking of the City of San Francisco. Conservation, preserving our natural resources, extending the life of landfills—these thoughts were in the minds and hearts of San Franciscans as they put out their little square blue bins and sacks of paper. Likewise, local businesses recycled for the larger social and environmental benefit—and a discount on their monthly trash bill that can be substantial. Today the City is on its way to meeting its goal of 75 percent landfill diversion by next year, and zero waste by 2020.

But it wasn’t long before the pillaging started—and how easy it was, too. In 2001 the system was upgraded to the covered bins, the idea being that co-mingling the recyclables—paper, glass, plastic and cans—would encourage more recycling and deter theft. It worked for a while. Recycling increased 25 percent within three weeks; the scavengers went to Berkeley and other places. But then those towns also switched their practices. Now there’s a level playing field for all participants.

Stealing recyclables has become professionalized. There are now individual fleets with up to 10 vehicles each, police say: Of approximately 250 trucks on our streets, 150 are operated by 10 fleet...
Webster’s dictionary defines neighborhood as “the area or region around or near some place or thing.” What that definition doesn’t address is the heart and soul that bring a neighborhood to life: what makes a neighborhood a neighborhood and not just another set of lines drawn on a map.

Glen Park is blessed with plenty of heart and soul.

We experienced a good dose of heart and soul during our neighborhood festival in April, when neighbors and visitors packed into downtown Glen Park to check out the booths staffed by community organizations, to listen (and dance) to the great bands, to fill our bellies with lemon dessert. A potluck feast, eaten at tables set up in the middle of the street, added to everyone’s enjoyment. The event was downright neighborly, offering a small-town feel in the middle of urban San Francisco.

If we look around us, we can experience Glen Park’s heart and soul just about any day, whether it’s with the people who volunteer to paint out graffiti, to purge non-native plants from the canyon, to work with City officials on transportation improvements. We can experience it when we walk past Destination Bakery in the early-morning hours and get a whiff of the fresh-baked baguettes and fruit Danishes, or when we see passers-by petting the kitties whose dad brings them downstairs from the flat above Le P’tit Laurent for some fresh air on the sidewalk, or when we hear the mockingbirds that grace many of our backyards.

When you think of the heart and soul of Glen Park, what do you think of? Drop us a line and let us know. Maybe we can write about it, or photograph it, for the next issue of the Glen Park News.

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.

GPA Board of Directors and Officers for 2009

President
Michael Rice
337-9894
president@glenparkassociation.org

Vice-President
Michael Ames
239-8337
vp@glenparkassociation.org

Treasurer
Dennis Mullen
Membership Secretary
Heather World

Recording Secretary
Volunteer needed

Membership Secretary
health@glenparkassociation.org

Health & Environment
Volunteer needed

Neighborhood Improvement
John Walmsley
Glen Park News
Elizabeth Weise
908-6728
news@glenparkassociation.org

Glen Park News
2912 Diamond St. #407
San Francisco, CA 94131
(415) 908-6728
news@glenparkassociation.org
When I wrote in March: “Neighbors, you're really interested in Glen Park! Would you like to be a GPA [officer] [committee chair] [committee member],” I did not foresee the varied responses. A good number have volunteered to join the transportation, zoning, health and environment, and recreation and park committees.

April 8 saw a strong turnout for the Glen Park Association quarterly meeting, to listen to staff presentations on the study of employee shuttle buses in the neighborhood; the General Plan Housing Element; and the Glen Park Community Plan and BART Station Area Transportation Study.

On April 21, you packed the Glen Park School auditorium for the Planning Department, Municipal Transportation Agency, and BART staff on further startup of the Glen Park Community Plan and the BART Study.

The Glen Park Festival on April 26 filled Diamond and Wilder streets with families, crafts, food and community booths. GPA was between the tables of the Friends of the Sunnyside Conservatory and the Planning Department. I spent the day at our booth with Heather World, GPA membership secretary, and Beth Weise, Glen Park News editor-in-chief, seeing old friends and meeting new neighbors. Neighbors who signed on as new GPA members brought our membership to a new record total of 210.

At the festival, we met San Francisco Police Department Capt. David Lazar, the new commander at Ingleside Station. He will be speaking to a Glen Park neighborhood meeting soon. (Am I right that April 26 was the only sunny Sunday in April?)

May continued with a Municipal Transportation Agency meeting on the proposed San Francisco Bicycle Plan. We saw bike lanes proposed for Glen Park to connect riders easily to the Mission and Sunnyvale, along with changes in street parking. The GPA board has commented on the bike plan elements, supporting these overall, but noting that adequate parking to serve our commercial area needs to be considered.

GPA Board members and committee chairs are tracking these city efforts, calling and e-mailing staff, and posting updates on our web site; we have room for more voices and ideas. The City is investing considerable resources in these plans. Let’s leverage this to support our neighborhood: our range of housing; our great transit connections; good automobile access; and even more lively commercial area.

A plug: SPUR, the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, just opened its Urban Center at 654 Mission St. (Montgomery Street BART). The main floor exhibit is “Agents of Change: Civic Idealism and the Making of San Francisco.” This is a great display of many threads of development in the City (www.spur.org).

Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association.

GPA Spring Meeting

Are the shuttle buses that take people to Genentech and Google from the Glen Park BART station destroying our neighborhood or preserving it? Hurting the environment or helping?

It’s unclear whether the County Transportation Agency can answer those questions definitively, but by the time you read this the agency will have finished compiling information about the shuttles and how the neighborhood feels about them, and will have presented a report to the Board of Supervisors.

The agency got 800 responses to its online and print questionnaires about the shuttles in Glen Park, according to Margaret Cortes, a planner with the Authority. Information about the survey was present to the some 50 people who attended the Glen Park Association’s quarterly meeting April 8 at the Glen Canyon Recreation Center.

Among the positive findings: The shuttles are a smart way to provide point-to-point transportation; they allow people who would otherwise move to the Peninsula to stay in the city; they increase patronage of local retail and restaurants; and by bringing more foot traffic to the neighborhood they make people feel safer.

Among the negatives: the buses are too large for the streets; they can obstruct Muni stops; they make a lot of noise, add to congestion, emit pollutants and pose safety hazards for bikes and pedestrians.

Another topic taken up at the meeting was the portion of the San Francisco General Plan concerned with housing, known bureaucratically as the “housing element.” Other “elements” of the plan include transportation, urban design and open space.

By state law, the City is required to update its Housing Element every five years. San Francisco’s plan was last updated in 2004.

The state anticipates that over the next seven years, 31,000 people will move to San Francisco, requiring an additional 4,000 housing units. The state also sets a goal that 60 percent of the housing units created should be affordable to people making $100,000 or less a year. The City will hold 30 so-called stakeholder discussions around the city to discuss how this can happen. This process will continue through June, at which point the findings will be presented to the Planning Commission, officials said.
Water Buffalo in Glen Park

For a few trans-cultural days just before Easter weekend, a startling herd of water buffalo took up residence along Whitney Street just off Chenery. Those out for a walk might have been lucky enough to see a statue or two out on the sidewalk, slowly taking form.

First shaped out of chicken wire, given a healthy coat of papier mâché, primed, then outfitted with soulful painted eyes and fabric tails, these life-size beasts were created by Laotian-American artist Somboun Sayasane to help celebrate Lao New Year at Civic Center Plaza.

For the April 11 festival, which featured Laotian music and food, the buffalo were lined up at the entrance so that festival-goers could paint them. Sayasane, a compact man with a calm demeanor, explains, “Water buffalo are beloved animals for the Laotian people—buffalos are like cats and dogs to them.”

Sayasane has lived in Glen Park for 30 years with his partner, retired broadcast announcer Jimmy Corley. They keep cats, not water buffalo, as pets. The retaining wall of their house, at the corner of Whitney and Chenery Streets, is decorated with a rowboat-load of animals. Seashells march up the front stairs. The sidewalk is dotted with paint splatters left over from the many art projects Sayasane has created over the years.

He was the first of his family to move to America, although later all his siblings and his mother came, too. Young Sayasane’s childhood in a northern village called Bandonpalay was part idyllic, part war-pocked. His grandfather, a farmer and astrologer, owned eight or nine water buffalo, which slept in the house in winter to help keep his large family warm. His stepfather was in the Army, and his mother never went to school.

But Laos was at war during most of his childhood—a civil war between the communist Pathet Lao and the king’s Royal Lao government, with both sides serving as stand-ins for the Cold War superpowers. His grandfather died in the war, and their village was bombed virtually out of existence. Sayasane was recruited by the CIA to help build a secret airstrip in northern Laos.

A virulent case of malaria that kept him hospitalized for months saved his life—most of his boyhood friends and his coworkers at the airstrip site died, he says.

Sayasane always wanted to be an artist, even before he knew what that entailed. He drew constantly at school and made his way to art school in Thailand. With the help of some Americans he met in Laos, he came to the Bay Area to attend the Art Institute in San Francisco. He earned an MFA degree at the University of San Francisco.

His first job was teaching adult art classes at the de Young Museum, and he helped organize English classes for refugee families from Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. That led to an offer from the English as a Second Language department at Mission High School. Eventually he became a teacher’s aide, working with students with special needs. Now he is based at John O’Connell High School. He has painted murals at every school where he’s worked.

That early museum job began a long love affair with Golden Gate Park, where the greenery and lushness, he says, “reminds me of when I was growing up.” Sayasane began painting throughout the park, eventually assembling 57 scenes into a handsome, self-published book called “The Park in the City,” which is available from his web site (www.somboun.com) or by special order from Bird & Beckett Books. The first artwork in the book, part of which is used for the cover, is a meticulous somber-hued portrayl of the Conservatory of Flowers hovering behind a profusion of bright-colored flowers. Sayasane has managed to make the roofline, with its central dome and conical turrets at either end, resemble an Asian temple as much as a Victorian engineering marvel.

Oil paintings cover most walls of his house. His basement studio has stacks of finished and half-completed works showing his experiments in style—impressionistic houses in Bernal Heights, cubist scenes of Yosemite, abstractions of the heavens, and more. He’s just started a new series in Glen Canyon Park, but says he hasn’t yet found the right match of style and subject.

As for the celebratory water buffalo from the Lao New Year festival, they are jammed into his back yard. He’s unsure what will happen to them. But on the day of the festival, Sayasane was given an award for his work helping Southeast Asian refugees. The certificate, signed by Mayor Gavin Newsom, declares Somboun Sayasane to be an “Unsung Hero of 2009.”
Tough choice for families

Dilemma: City vs. Suburbs

Over the last few months, I’ve become increasingly obsessed with the advantages of city living versus the suburbs. It used to be a no-brainer for me: I’m an urbanite. I grew up in San Francisco and have lived in Paris and New York. Even after having kids, I swore this was the best place to raise them. Second freezers, SUVs, and vast front lawns held no appeal for me.

But then my son started preschool. We chose a school a few blocks away precisely for its location—I was determined to show my urban stripes and avoid the carpool lifestyle if at all possible. The locale in my Mayberry dream was more like the country, or a quaint town, or perhaps the kind of suburb often pictured in John Hughes movies: Charming wood-and-shingle houses with porches, gracious plane trees that meet in the middle of the street, sidewalks with cracks, mailboxes you have to walk out to and, always, kids biking up and down the street. Nary a big-box store would you find a heated online debate. Although many other parents of young children to encounter in my fairy-tale hometown. It is, in short, the kind of place that doesn’t exist in the Bay Area.

The locale in my Mayberry dream was more like the country, or a quaint town, or perhaps the kind of suburb often pictured in John Hughes movies: Charming wood-and-shingle houses with porches, gracious plane trees that meet in the middle of the street, sidewalks with cracks, mailboxes you have to walk out to and, always, kids biking up and down the street. Nary a big-box store would you find.

I pondered. I stressed. I Googled. And a few things became clear. First, not all suburbs are created equal. The definition, a small commuter town outside a metropolis, can refer to such diverse places as Hillsborough and Hayward, Fairfax and Foster City. The locale in my Mayberry dream was more like the country, or a quaint town, or perhaps the kind of suburb often pictured in John Hughes movies: Charming wood-and-shingle houses with porches, gracious plane trees that meet in the middle of the street, sidewalks with cracks, mailboxes you have to walk out to and, always, kids biking up and down the street. Nary a big-box store would you find.

The locale in my Mayberry dream was more like the country, or a quaint town, or perhaps the kind of suburb often pictured in John Hughes movies: Charming wood-and-shingle houses with porches, gracious plane trees that meet in the middle of the street, sidewalks with cracks, mailboxes you have to walk out to and, always, kids biking up and down the street. Nary a big-box store would you find.

I Googled “city or suburbs?” and found a heated online debate. Although most of the comments were clichés and not that insightful (“How could we trade the culture and museums for the conformity of the burbs?” or, “You just don’t get the same sense of community in the city as you do in a small town.”), a few comments got my gears turning.

One poster talked of loving life in Manhattan in general, but also of the difficulty of endlessly schlepping her kids’ sports gear around on the subway. Another city-dweller admitted the secret envy he felt when visiting his retired parents and being able to just push a button on the garage door opener and drive right in. One mom explained how she loved that in the suburbs her kids could join the Scouts and swim at the local pool. When someone replied that you can do that in Manhattan, too, she came back with the snarky rejoinder that “Chelsea Piers [a huge sports complex on the far west side of Manhattan] is not the same as the local pool!”

That’s when I realized that San Francisco is unique in that we can have it both ways. I used to think I’d rather raise my kids in New York City, and were it not for our family here, I’d move there in an instant. I was used to thinking of San Francisco as a sort of second-rate New York. But suddenly I saw it differently. Living here, we can have our pockets of urban conveniences—our 24th Streets and West Portals, our coffee shops, street cars, and farmers’ markets.

But we also have cars and, yes, I’m afraid we use them. My husband takes pride in getting to work on Muni or BART, but I drive my son to soccer practice in Glen Canyon, where I stand and chat with other neighborhood moms I’ve known since our kids were born (how’s that for community?).

We can walk to the local grocery store, but we have a nice, albeit small, house with our own tiny yard. We even have local pools. No, they’re not outdoor, nor just down the street, but they’re only a 10-minute drive away—hardly Chelsea Piers. You can even have garage
The Glen Park Festival returned this year on Sunday, April 26, a day so warm that a few volunteers at booths lining the sunny side of Wilder Street were seeking shade.

Smiles on the faces of young and old made it clear that the neighborhood appreciated the hard work of all the volunteers who made the event a success.

Some statistics tell the story:

5,000 Dollars raised for children’s programs
2,000+ Attendees
2,000 Raffle tickets sold
5:30 The pre-dawn hour volunteers began setting up
45 Minutes’ wait for kids in line at the inflatable jumpy house
17 Artists and craftspeople presenting their wares
8 Local businesses with booths
7 City agencies attending
7 Neighborhood organizations’ booths
6 Jewelry vendors’ booths
4 Neighborhood preschools’ booths
4 Clothing vendors’ booths
4 Diamond Heights firefighters who helped fill the water barrels that held down the tents
2 Neighborhood private elementary schools participating

The Glen Park Festival will once again give grants to local children’s programs, from funds raised by the raffle. To apply, please visit www.glenparkfestival.com.

The always-popular SFFD fire engine was one of the attractions that drew throngs to Wilder Street during the Glen Park Festival.

Photo by Ellen Rosenthal
Block Watch Promotes S.A.F.E. Environment

Glen Park is a relatively safe neighborhood as San Francisco neighborhoods go, and according to the latest police reports, incidents of crime have dropped significantly here over the last several months. Good news for those who are concerned with the overall safety of this tight-knit community.

What can you do to help keep things that way?

According to Oona Gilles-Weil, program director of San Francisco SAFE, knowing one another and looking out for one another is key to a community's safety. She adds that another critical factor in neighborhood safety is a willingness for people to report crimes and suspicious behavior by calling a local non-emergency police department number or, if necessary, 911.

SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone) was established in 1976 by the San Francisco Police Department. Four years later it became a full-fledged non-profit organization. Its mission: To prevent crime and violence and improve the quality of life in San Francisco's neighborhoods. Some of SAFE's primary goals include increasing public safety awareness, assisting in creating Neighborhood Watch groups and acting as a liaison between individual communities and the SFPD.

Gilles-Weil says, "Glen Park is one of our model neighborhoods, with 14 blocks currently participating in active Neighborhood Watch groups."

Putting a Neighborhood Watch group into place takes a little time and effort, and SAFE has the tools to help individual city blocks in any San Francisco neighborhood get started. Mostly it's a matter of neighbors meeting and creating a contact list for their block.

SAFE feels there are many benefits to putting a Neighborhood Watch group together—for example, reducing the risk of crime and victimization on your block and in your community, as well as simply getting to know your neighbors and establishing a communications network. Many people don't realize the extent of these benefits until they actually have a watch group in place.

Crime and violence aren't the only threats to a community. Just like a robbery or other crime, a natural disaster can be a dangerous situation requiring a heightened awareness of our surroundings and the people around us. For example, as people meet each other and gain basic knowledge about each other in a neighborhood, it puts a kind of "safety net" over everyone involved.

When your neighbors know who you are, they are better equipped to help you when there is trouble. Who wouldn't want that kind of insurance policy?

For more information on SAFE visit www.sfsafe.org. To find out if your block has a neighborhood watch or to start one, contact SAFE at info@sfsafe.org or call 553-1984.

Neighborhood News and Notes

Eateries, Muni & More

The financial downturn is taking its toll on Glen Park. After less than a year, the sushi restaurant Sangha, at 798 Chenery, has closed indefinitely. The sign in the window says, “We have decided to make some changes and we will reopen in the near future. Thank you for your patronage.”

Co-owner Ric López, of Modern Past on Chenery, says, “We’re trying to decide” what the next move will be.

While sushi fusion may be out, Italian is still coming in. Construction is nearing completion at the Italian restaurant, originally targeted to be opened last November, in the former Bird and Beckett space on Diamond Street. Owner Manhal Jweinat, whose Higher Grounds coffee house is nearby on Chenery, gave the News a quick tour and the interior is beautiful.

Jweinat studied set design and mosaic in Italy, and the restaurant—full of beautiful wood, intricate tile work and warmth—shows it. Final touches are going in now. Jweinat is off to Italy for the month of August to work in a winery there and then hopes to open in September. The restaurant will feature family friendly Tuscan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
Police Reform Tested in Glen Park

The Ingleside Police District, which includes Glen Park, is at the forefront of an experiment to reform policing in San Francisco.

Leading the charge is Capt. David Lazar, who recently took over as commanding officer of Ingleside Station. At 38 years old, he is the youngest captain in the department, and a favorite of Chief Heather Fong, who hand-picked him for the high-profile post.

He has been charged with implementing a series of consultant-driven recommendations aimed at making the police force more effective, efficient and accountable to the public through the use of old-fashioned policing—think foot patrols—and data-driven policy.

The idea is to aim the resources where they’re needed most and give the station more resources, such as its own crime analyst and inspectors, who will work side-by-side with the patrol officers at the station instead of out of the Hall of Justice downtown. Experimenting with a decentralized approach is a major about-face for the department.

Brass picked Ingleside because of its diversity—single-family homes and housing projects; many races and income levels; robust commercial districts and quiet residential pockets; and various levels of criminal activity.

The station, with 124 patrol officers, will be assigned an extra lieutenant who will be the designated chief problem-solver. The lieutenant will work with community groups, schools, City agencies and other police units to tackle problems more holistically.

For example, if there’s a known drug house in the area, the lieutenant may coordinate with the district attorney, the city attorney, the Department of Building Inspection, the health department, the Department of Parking and Traffic and neighborhood watch groups to help close down the illegal operation. Such a synchronized approach has been tried at various times before in the city. The idea now, if the effort proves successful, is to enmesh it in the culture of policing and use it as a model in San Francisco’s police districts.

“The way we’re looking at it is to address local crimes with local solutions,” Lazar said.

One of the early initiatives Lazar implemented was to put foot patrols in downtown Glen Park in the early evening. He has asked his available officers to park their patrol cars and walk the beat around the BART station and the businesses clustered near Chenery and Diamond streets between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

“We want there to be a police presence when people are coming home on BART and Muni,” he said.

Lazar did not raise alarms about crime in Glen Park, but noted that eruptions of street robberies, home burglaries and car break-ins have put residents and merchants on edge.

One such incident occurred May 14 on the 2700 block of Diamond Street when two men leaped from a car and mugged a Glen Park man on his way home just after dark. The thugs zapped the victim with a stun gun 11 times and stole his $2,200 Mac laptop and a cell phone before taking off. A woman was behind the wheel of the get-away car. The victim was able to give police a good description of the suspects and a partial license plate number. Four days later, officers apprehended the suspects, who are thought to have assaulted seven other people. The alleged assailants have been charged with several counts, including attempted murder.

Lazar comes to the job of Ingleside Station’s top cop following two captains who were extremely popular with the community and the rank-and-file: Denis O’Leary and Paul Chignell. Lazar is still proving himself, but has been making the rounds of neighborhood meetings and diligently filing a fact-filled daily crime log available to the public via e-mail.

The 18-year SFPD veteran worked in Glen Park a dozen years ago as a sergeant. Prior to taking over Ingleside Station, he worked as a night captain and as the captain overseeing the homicide, robbery and gang details. This is his first stint as a station captain, considered a plum assignment for officers moving up the ranks.

A fourth generation San Franciscan, Lazar lives near Glen Park in Forest Hill extension. “I know Glen Park well,” he said, adding that he gets his dry cleaning done at a neighborhood shop.

Transportation

The Municipal Railway, saddled with a projected $129 million deficit, is moving ahead with a cost-cutting plan that includes purging the 26-Valencia bus route that has long served Glen Park. The line will stop running in October, Muni officials said. However, Muni will offer replacement service between the Glen Park BART station and St. Luke’s Hospital by rerouting the 36-Teresita down Chenery Street.

Muni riders no longer will be able to hop on the 26-Valencia for a ride to the Mission or downtown. However, they still can catch the J-Church Metro line at a stop near the BART station that many folks find unsavory, or take the 36-Teresita to the Mission corridor and transfer to the Mission Street buses, which will be getting beefed-up service as part of the Muni makeover.

In the opposite direction, the 36-Teresita will stop at the Forest Hill Muni Metro station, which is served by the K, L and M lines.

Chenery Museum

If owner Bob Pritikin can get it through the planning process, the Pritikin House at 47 Chenery St., adjacent to Fairmount School, may become a nonprofit, “only in San Francisco” museum. Pritikin made his money in advertising—the Rice-a-Roni jingle was one of his creations. Now he’d like to open his mansion, one of the largest estates in the city, to show off his art collection. Visitors would be limited to a maximum of 20 per day, and he plans to provide at least some valet parking on the property.

The building currently hosts weddings and receptions. Pritikin’s proposal is working its way through the Planning Department, as it will require a special permit. Those with strong feelings on the matter should contact Planning, or the Glen Park Association at news@glenparkassociation.org.

City vs. Suburbs

It’s been said that Manhattan is nothing but a collection of villages, but I think the saying is even more true of San Francisco. Because of our hills, neighborhoods tend to be somewhat isolated and distinct. Rather than 49 square miles of commercial activity, one running into the next, San Francisco is made up of a few dozen individual urban centers, divided by peaceful residential areas. Now, that’s my kind of Mayberry.

News and Notes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

food and be named Manzoni—Jweinat’s nickname when he lived in Italy.

Patrol Specials

The informal group of local businesses and neighbors who have banded together to hire private Patrol Special Officer Cal Wiley added at least eight new members during the Glen Park Festival. The full extent of subscriptions and the patrol’s schedule are being kept confidential for security reasons, but there has been sufficient support that Wiley now walks the neighborhood at least five nights a week.

Interested neighbors can call 587-3863 or go to http://romantasy.com/SF/PatrolSubscription.html for more details. The group is also selling T-shirts and tote bags to support the program, available at local merchants.

Glen Park News
Classifieds

End Homework Hassles

Family time’s better spent! www.mystudybuddy.org

Jane Radelcliffe 415-586-4577.

August Moon Massage


Scottish Country Dancing

Put more fun in your life! Scottish Country Dancing is fun, social, energetic group dancing. Join us on Thursdays at 8PM at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. No experience or partner necessary. A new basic class starts September 10 with a FREE Introductory Lesson and Party. Visit our website www.sf-scottishdancers.org, or call 415-841-9456 for more information. We invite you to “join the dance!”

City vs. Suburbs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

door openers here, if you’re into that sort of thing.

My relief was palpable. No, after years of touting my devotion to the city, I was not going to have to eat my words. I could enjoy the rur-al-ish delights San Francisco has to offer without worrying that they hid an inner yen for strip malls and McMansions.

It’s been said that Manhattan is nothing but a collection of villages, but I think the saying is even more true of San Francisco. Because of our hills, neighborhoods tend to be somewhat isolated and distinct. Rather than 49 square miles of commercial activity, one running into the next, San Francisco is made up of a few dozen individual urban centers, divided by peaceful residential areas. Now, that’s my kind of Mayberry.
Nearby Neighborhood Offers Many Surprises

A Walk Through Cayuga Terrace Showcases Art and Architecture

The Cayuga Nation is a Native American tribe within the Iroquois Confederacy. Cayuga Avenue was named for this tribe and, by proxy, for the longest of northern New York’s Finger Lakes. Several other “lower Excelsior” neighborhood streets bear Native American tribal names but Cayuga is the longest of them. It parallels Alemany Boulevard, with stub ends northeast of Still Street, at the edge of I-280, and at Cayuga Park, southwest of Naglee Street.

Cayuga Park—still called a playground on some maps—is an easy, 1.9-mile walk from the Glen Park BART station: Down Bosworth, right at Lyell, under San Jose Avenue and I-280, right on Cayuga.

Cayuga Avenue is actually built over the south fork of Islais Creek, which originates at the park just below the Spanish Cultural Center on Alemany. Islais Creek’s north fork begins behind the School of the Arts, formerly McAteer High School, at the top of Glen Canyon Park. The two creek branches meet underground near the northeast end of Cayuga. They emerge at the Islais Creek Channel just west of Third Street.

The walk from Glen Park to Cayuga Park will not disappoint, with the reward of unique folk art at your destination. Along Cayuga Avenue, look in the middle of the street for an occasional large manhole cover (not the storm sewers) and listen to the creek gurgling below—it travels in its own pipeline. What’s to see along here? Neat, well-kept homes, most dating back to the ’20s and ’30s on a quiet, gently rising street.

Soon you come to Balboa High School—a beautifully kept and painted structure at Onondaga Street (another New York tribal/lake name). Note the bloc of 16 unusual homes in modified Craftsman styles on Onondaga, along the north side of the school. Before these houses were built there was a small Lake Geneva at about this point, fed by Islais Creek. But then everybody wanted a home, and so…

As you pass by the green turf and bleachers of the ball field, you can’t miss the one distraction—BART trains on a high trestle. You can spot your destination in a grove of trees a few blocks ahead.

At the end of the street, you come upon a small park office and classroom in a cool, clean and neat tree-lined park with a tennis court and a ballpark. Some comfortable benches have been placed about the park. But this is not what you are here for.

What really catches the eye are more than a hundred painted wooden carvings all about the park perimeter, along several

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
Love Blossoms at the Bookstore

It was Rory Donovan and Jimmy Ryan's lucky day in April 2003 when she drove down Diamond Street and glimpsed a sign plugging Friday night jazz at Bird and Beckett. Jimmy Ryan has played drums at the popular bookstore—now on Chenery Street—since 2002, and that evening Rory met Jimmy for the first time.

Exactly five years later Rory’s daughter and maid of honor, Katy, 24, offered a toast to Jimmy and Rory at the couple’s wedding. “I’m really so happy that you guys found each other,” Katy beamed, toasting the newlyweds.

Originally from Boston, Rory, 57, has been a nurse at Sutter Health for 30 years. Divorced, she raised three children in San Francisco’s Portola district.

Jimmy, 69, a San Franciscan since 1965 whose own marriage had ended, raised his six children in the Sunnyside, Crocker Amazon and Richmond districts.

Rory wasn’t originally looking for a life partner when she entered Bird and Beckett that spring evening. “It is hard to find a place in the city to connect with people,” she says. “Bird and Beckett on Friday nights is a community, a bookstore where people are so friendly.”

“I spotted her from across the room,” Jimmy says. During a set break, he struck a resonant chord with the stunning nurse.

“We chatted,” Jimmy says. “I was very attracted to her.”

After the gig, Jimmy, Rory and a few regulars adjourned to the Red Rock, now the location of Le P’tit Laurent. Jimmy bought Rory gimlets, using this as an excuse to hold her hand—probably for a minute and a half too long, he now admits.

Rory often returned to the Bird and Beckett jam sessions, but only after several entreaties did she acquiesce and go on her first date with Jimmy. No fool, Jimmy took a busman’s holiday, accompanying Rory to the Herbst Theatre to hear jazz pianist Hank Jones tickle the ivories.

Not one to rush her fences, Rory, many dates and five years later, was still a bit nonplussed about the difference in their ages. “I asked her,” Jimmy says with a self-deprecating grin, “would she rather spend one year with Hank Jones or 20 years with Kenny G?”

No elevator music for this up-tempo duet. The couple honeymooned for a month in Ireland, and reprised their Emerald Isle idyll this Valentine’s Day at a Sunset District Irish pub, sitting around a warm peat fire, savoring fish and chips and drinking a pint of Guinness.

Jimmy owns up: “It may have been two pints or maybe three. I only remember it was lovely.”

“Jimmy is easy to talk with,” says Rory, who enjoys attending Dolores Park Church with him. “He’s a man of faith and he is so non-judgmental.”

Dressed in dark jeans and a green Celtic T-shirt, Jimmy Ryan gives no evidence he is a year shy of his 70th birthday. He looks hip, and he looks to his music for road maps to a harmonious marriage, seeing little difference between providing rhythm for the Jimmy Ryan Quintet and sharing a melodious life with Rory.

“My job as an improvisational jazz drummer is offering support and a cushion,” he says.

Both Jimmy and Rory think that Bird and Beckett is the perfect space to listen to jazz riffs. “Aren’t we lucky to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13
City Unveils Strategy to Calm Traffic on Busy Diamond Heights Boulevard

Throughout the city there is a daily struggle to move about. Whether you’re in a car or on foot, congested streets can pose a threat to your inner peace. In our locale, the hilly, winding topography of Glen Park and Diamond Heights can be downright irksome if you’re trying to go somewhere.

The City of San Francisco is here to help. As part of its Livable Streets effort, the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has an ongoing program of “traffic-calming” solutions. One of several problems throughout the city is trying to improve by re-striping the roadway is the Diamond Heights Boulevard corridor.

Money for the project comes from the Transportation Fund for Clean Air, which gets its revenue from a registration fee on automobiles in the Bay Area. Antonio Piccagli, traffic engineer in the SFMTA, is the project manager. The grant expires this November, so time is of the essence.

The primary aim of the program is to improve access to public transportation. Other goals are to reduce speeding, improve pedestrian crossings (especially near transit stops), and ease turning movements and driveway access along the boulevard, thereby increasing safety for all.

The speed limit on Diamond Heights Boulevard is 30 mph, but the median clocked speed is 36–37 mph. One favored method to reduce speed is the “road diet”: Lane reductions, whereby slower drivers set the pace; decreasing lane width; painting wider medians and wider parking lanes; and adding turn pockets and merge lanes.

Conventional wisdom about slowing down vehicles would call for adding more stop signs and traffic lights or flashing pedestrian warning signals. But traffic engineers have found that these measures tend to be counterproductive, by encouraging drivers to ignore them, thus endangering pedestrians. Even if they heed stop signs and lights, drivers tend to then speed up to make up for the delay. Stop signs and lights give pedestrians a false sense of security and they are then less careful. Public transit, already slowed by congestion, is slowed even further. And excessive stopping increases emissions.

The re-stripping project that has evolved is the result of efforts of the SFMTA and a working group of volunteers representing local residents and businesses, who did a block-by-block evaluation. This was followed by a presentation of the plan to the community in March.

Some residents felt that certain traffic-calming measures along Diamond Heights Boulevard are a solution in search of a problem, that traffic would be slowed unnecessarily and would cause driver frustration. Another concern was that the changes would push motorists onto other neighborhood streets. While acknowledging possible increase in driver impatience, the SFMTA asserts that there is excess road capacity on the boulevard so no spillover traffic is anticipated.

Five major locations identified by the SFMTA for changes are mapped on their web site, www.sfmta.com/calming.

A field trip along the boulevard to review the proposed changes can be surprisingly confusing, because several streets intersect with Diamond Heights Boulevard at more than one point—Diamond Street, Berkeley Way, Gold Mine Drive and Duncan Street. The best way to find each location is to match the streets on the maps to the Diamond Heights Boulevard block numbers. Here’s a snapshot of what traffic-calming measures will be implemented:

No.1 on SFMTA map: Carnelian Way to Duncan Street westbound (5000 block of Diamond Heights Boulevard)—Reduce from two lanes to one near the median, to improve sight lines for pedestrians crossing at Duncan Street north. Also, after repaving, eliminate western-most crosswalk due to poor sight lines.

No.2: Gold Mine Drive (N) intersection (5300 block)—No changes at entrance to shopping center. Two lanes will be retained due to high traffic volume. Farther north, reduce from two lanes to one, with flare-out near stop sign.

No.3: Diamond Street (N) Intersection (5400 block)—Lane reduction in both directions; add southbound left-turn lane and northbound right-turn lane onto Diamond Street.


No.5: Berkeley Way (N) to Diamond Street (S) (5600 block)—Lane reduction both directions. Left turn lane onto Diamond Street. Left turn lane onto Berkeley Way. Two-way left turn lanes onto Gold Mine Drive and Addison Street.

Issues for a later time and more funding are major curb changes; and adding bike lanes, which requires an environmental impact report. If the public wants other permanent changes at certain locations, they can download and complete a Traffic Calming Application at the SFMTA web site.

Work will begin in the fall and be completed sometime in November. One big gainer in this project is that Diamond Heights Boulevard is due to be repaved starting in 2010. This will necessitate re-stripping all the changes afterward, with completion of that in 2011.

Whoo’s Who in Glen Canyon

Glen Canyon’s resident owl couple produced owlets again this year, to the delight of park-goers.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

Destination Baking Company

Your neighborhood destination for quality baked goods!

598 Chenery Street, San Francisco, CA 94131  415.469.0730
Monday through Friday 6:30am - 6:30pm, Saturday and Sunday 7:00am - 4:00pm
Planners, BART Discuss Local Development Plans

On April 21 the Planning Department hosted a public open house at Glen Park Elementary School to present an update on the Glen Park Community Plan. Created in 2003, the Draft Community Plan is now moving toward anticipated adoption by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors in late 2010 or early 2011.

The open house featured a presentation by Planning Department staff on the draft plan. Staff responded to questions from the community. Two issues received a lot of attention: Neighborhood parking management, and development of the BART parking lot across Bosworth Street from the Glen Park BART station. Transportation improvements, the possible restoration of Islais Creek and new open space opportunities also were discussed. The Planning Department announced that the necessary transportation analysis and environmental review are now under way.

BART staff were present to discuss future development of the BART parking lot. BART is in the process of selecting a developer for the site, and will work closely with the community and the Planning Department in the coming months to determine what type of development will best suit the community’s and BART’s goals. Building design, heights and level of housing affordability have not yet been determined. These elements will be discussed in a series of public meetings to be held over the next year.

For more information, news of future public meetings or to view the open house materials, please visit the Glen Park Community Plan web site at http://glenpark.sfplanning.org or contact Jon Swae, plan manager, at 575-9069 or jon.swae@sfgov.org.

Cayuga Walk
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Little side trails and even on some high pulps. Several persons have spoken of this art, created by Demetrio Braceros, born in the Philippines, who came to the U.S. in 1973 and whose heart and health forced him to retire last year at age 68.

Braceros visits his former workshop now and then to check on the progress of the park. The little container shack where he carved so many of his works still stands half-hidden under tall bushes. It is filled with diminutive “wall” paintings and small relics of his work. The space is also occupied by the park gardener and his equipment.

The park you see here is truly a sacred place. You must find this for yourself. Several web sites give more information about what you will discover there; Google “Cayuga Park San Francisco” and “Demetrio Braceros.”

Cayuga Park fortunately has not escaped the attention of the City; it has been awarded a $7 million grant for preservation and upgrading of its outstanding art and facilities. The office/classroom will be replaced by a two-story “clubhouse.” Most important, all of the wooden art works are being removed one by one to be treated, preserved and remounted in concrete supports. The damp earth tends to harbor rot and bugs—not conducive to maintaining artworks as beautiful as these. Even the distraction of BART is to be modified by installing some sort of sound-dampening material.

Most visitors marvel and express surprise and awe at the variety of Braceros’ inspiration. Personifications of Barry Bonds, Willie Brown, Herb Caen, John Lennon, Michael Jordan, even Princess Diana are all here, but he has much more for us.

Braceros honored this little peace park by his creations, a reverence for all life—from the smallest to the largest. Find flowers and leaves and trees, a ladybug, a tiny fish, a giant fish, an octopus, a dolphin, snakes and an alligator, birds of all feathers, oh up the ladder of evolution. Laugh at his fun with all creatures, real and imagined. They are all here to show us the peace of the world—even the fierce faces to frighten away the bad spirits. He gave us many saints, angels, workers, peoples of all colors and races, honoring the deities and spirits of many cultures. He pays respect to the law and the healers. He beckons you to climb to the top of a pulpit to sound your own song.

To vary the sights on your way home, return via Otsego Avenue, two blocks west of Cayuga, and wander zig-zag to San Jose Avenue and the Baden Street bridge—there are many older homes and a variety of architecture along the same 1.9 mile distance.

If you’ve walked enough, take a Mission Street bus to Silver Avenue and transfer to a 44 or 52 bus to Glen Park, or take BART or the J streetcar from Balboa Park.

The name “Braceros” comes from the Spanish for arms. This artist has extended the arms of life to us. Let us take home and remember the spirits he has given to us.

Dr. Carrie Lee, O.D.
Optometrist
2786 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94131
(415) 334-2020
www.eyedentityvision.com

● Comprehensive adult and pediatric eye exams
● Contact lens fittings ● Screenings for glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration ● Emergency appointments ● LASIK surgery evaluation and co-management ● Customized eyeglasses and sunglasses ● Eyeglass repairs and adjustments

Vision Service Plan accepted
San Francisco Police Chief Heather Fong announced April 1 that the Ingleside Police District, which includes Glen Park, would be the testing ground for reforming the way SFPD operates.

The real-life experiment stems from a study conducted for the City by the Police Executive Research Forum aimed at improving San Francisco’s police force. The 90-page consultants’ report—thick with soup-to-nuts data—came with a long list of recommendations on ways to transform the department with “best police practices,” up-to-date technology, district reorganizations, boundary analysis and every politician’s favorite mantra, “community policing.”

The first phase of the overhaul started with quite a bang: The unexpected transfer of Capt. Denis O’Leary, Ingleside station’s commanding officer who was popular with both the cops and the community.

O’Leary had been innovative and successful in addressing the crime issues in the district at large and Glen Park in particular. He understood the balance needed to maintain a heavy police presence in high-crime areas and still meet the needs of the taxpaying, socially responsible citizens in neighborhoods such as ours.

O’Leary’s willingness to listen to his officers, sergeants and lieutenants and to give them autonomy to initiate enforcement programs, arrest violent crooks and address neighborhood nuisance issues while interacting with community groups paid dividends. Now that’s what I call community policing.

O’Leary was replaced by Capt. David Lazar, an 18-year veteran of the department. Lazar’s task is to crystallize the 90 pages of recommendations down to a workable model from which he can implement the proposed changes.

He will have to master the balancing act of maintaining a fully staffed patrol presence and establishing the community “problem solving teams,” while documenting the district’s progress throughout the pilot project under the watchful eyes of the department administration, politicians, media and, most importantly, the citizens of the Ingleside Police District.

Lazar already has initiated extensive foot and bicycle beats in the Mission corridor from Cesar Chavez Street to Geneva Avenue, including the Cortland Avenue beat in Bernal Heights.

He has mandated that officers assigned to the sector that includes Glen Park walk the beat for at least a short time each late afternoon in the village business district.

Many of the consultants’ recommendations are practices in which we have been engaged for years: Interaction with community groups, saturation enforcement, foot beats and multi-agency team solutions to vexing neighborhood problems. The process now puts a name on these programs and demands documentation and accountability. The department brass has pledged their financial and logistical support during this rollout. We’ll see.

The work of consultants often appears to be a solution in search of a problem. If the Police Executive Research Forum plan results in substantive and positive changes to the way we police San Francisco, I guess the money was well spent.

I will report back in future columns as to how the program might benefit Glen Park as we progress through the various stages.

SFPD Officer Michael Walsh lives and works in Glen Park.

**Lovebirds**

Continued from page 10

I have this bookstore in our lives, a place to hear music and to handle and read books,” says Rory.

Already a jazz impresario and a purveyor of open mic poetry recitations, bookseller Eric Whittington never imagined he would add matchmaker to his burgeoning Bird and Beckett biography. “I guess I should have known,” Eric says.

“Provide them with books and music, offer them a glass of wine … what else could they do?”

The late jazz stylist Blossom Dearie harmonized it well: “It’s very clear, our love is here to stay; not for a year, but ever and a day.” Neither Jimmy nor Rory Ryan would phrase their favorite lyrics any differently.

“Besides,” Rory smiles, “Jimmy’s better looking than Kenny G.”

---

San Francisco Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned Cars</td>
<td>553-9817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Inspection Info</td>
<td>558-6088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Shelters (repair/clean)</td>
<td>882-4949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty</td>
<td>554-6968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage (oversized item pickup)</td>
<td>330-1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti Hotline</td>
<td>28-CLEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Assistant Patrol (MAP)</td>
<td>431-7400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Homeless Outreach/Transportation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Crisis Team</td>
<td>355-8300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Mental Health)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muni Information</td>
<td>673-6864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muni Complaint/Compliment</td>
<td>923-6164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Enforcement</td>
<td>553-1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police (non-emergency)</td>
<td>553-0123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potholes</td>
<td>695-2100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent Stabilization Board</td>
<td>252-4600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Construction Complaints</td>
<td>554-7222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Lighting</td>
<td>554-0730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Problems</td>
<td>695-2165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towed Cars</td>
<td>553-1235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Park Gets New Rail Fence

Last February, marking Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday, Richard Craib and seven other volunteers from Friends of Glen Canyon Park built a 56-foot-long split-rail cedar fence along the western bank of Islais Creek, one of the last above-ground creeks in San Francisco.

“See how it meanders,” said Craib, a native San Franciscan, pointing to six sections of canyon fencing that run parallel to a nearby identical railing constructed by Volunteers for California in June 2008. As a boy, Mr. Lincoln split logs for similar fences along Pigeon Creek, not far from the Ohio River.

Craib just as easily could have been speaking of Islais Creek, which begins near his Diamond Heights home, meanders its way through Glen Canyon Park and eventually passes through culverts on its way to the bay.

Lisa Wayne, natural areas program director for the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, which has had a partnership with the Friends for 10 years, was pleased. “The fence blends into the natural environment and adds to the visual experience of the canyon,” she said.

Alma Hecht, a sustainable landscape designer who lives on Chenery Street and writes the monthly “In Glen Canyon Park” column for the Glen Park News, echoed Wayne: “The railing looks lovely and it protects a sensitive area.”

Craib, a retired construction worker, is president of the 120-member Friends of Glen Canyon Park, which was established in 1987. He has nearly a half-century of history with Glen Canyon’s 80 acres. He and his wife, Sandi, built their home on Turquoise Way 46 years ago, on the rim of the park, overlooking the canyon.

Among California Buckeye trees, Craib’s crew—ranging in age from mid-thirties to mid-seventies—worked through the rainy season, hauling milled rails, digging post holes and attaching protective wire that prevents unleashed dogs from digging at the elderberry trees and the California native iris and flowering currant that border Islais Creek.

Parks supervisor Wayne, 12 years with Rec and Park, is concerned about erosion impacting Islais Creek. “The fence safeguards the creek from trampling and protects its water quality,” she said. Noting that creek-side poison oak provides forage for wildlife, but threatens dogs, Hecht added: “The railing has the bonus of keeping dogs safe.”

“This is the most peaceful place in the canyon,” said Craib, eyeing the swollen creek last March, as well as a hollow of native plants he has reintroduced and protected for 14 years.

Nearby, volunteer Mary Huizinga, a retired computer programmer, leaned on a posthole auger a few yards from the Glenridge nursery school. “Along with Golden Gate Park, there’s no greater wild habitat” she said, as she watched a mourning dove light on a redwood branch.

Huizinga has been integral to Craib’s weekly work parties for three years. Equally as adept at pulling yellow grass, an invasive weed, as she is at expunging graffiti from canyon signs, Huizinga, a 25-year Laidley Street resident, gave a shout out to the Friends, whose goal is habitat restoration and biodiversity protection. “I know weeds,” Huizinga said. “Oxalis, poison hemlock, wild radish … they’re no friends of ours.”

The Rec and Park department gives its imprimatur of approval to Craib and his community-based brethren. With limited staff and resources of its own,

check it out at the library

With nicer weather, San Francisco comes alive with local fests; the library had the honor of having a table at two of them recently. I want to thank everyone who came out to the Glen Park Festival and the YMCA’s Health Resource fair. Both days had excellent weather so it made for a pleasant time to be out amongst the community.

I want to mention a new resource. San Francisco Public Library is offering eBooks—audio books, music and video downloads to access from your home computer, available with just a library card. This new online service includes bestselling fiction novels, self-improvement guides, biographies, classical and new-age music, educational videos, TV programs, feature films, and more. To find out more about it please visit http://sfpl.lib.overdrive.com.

It is time again for our annual Summer Reading Program for kids and teens, both with environmental themes. The children’s program is called “Read it and Green it.” The program runs from June 13–Aug. 8, for ages up to 13.

The Teen Reading program is called “Cool it!” and runs June 12–July 24, for ages 13–18.

We are having a lot of great programs at the library this summer; here is just a small selection:

Saturday, July 11, 3 p.m. - Film, Grizzly Road: The Last Days of the California Grizzly. Director Sabrina Alonso will present her documentary. An estimated 10,000 California grizzly bears once roamed the state. Grizzly Road explores the circumstances that led to the decimation of these great bears. A question-and-answer session with Alonso will follow the screening of the documentary.

Friday, July 24, 3 p.m. - Fantasic Trash: Recycle, Reuse, Recreate. This craft class will use found objects and recycled items. Younger kids will fashion hats from grocery bags, while older kids will create recycled sculptures made from objects brought or scavenged from home. Please sign up for this program with the librarian. Class size limited to 20 kids.

Saturday, July 25, 3 p.m. - Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs: This docent lecture complements the de Young Museum exhibition of more than 130 treasures from the ancient Egyptian tombs of King Tutankhamen, his royal predecessors, his family and officials of the court.

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m. - Georgia O’Keeffe: A Life in Art. View more than 100 slides of the art of Georgia O’Keeffe. Photographs of O’Keeffe and her husband, noted photographer Alfred Stieglitz, the places they lived and the artists with whom she exhibited, also will be shown.

The Community Calendar on page (220) _ lists more 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/.

Alma Hecht, a sustainable landscape designer who lives on Chenery Street and writes the monthly “In Glen Canyon Park” column for the Glen Park News, echoed Wayne: “The railing looks lovely and it protects a sensitive area.”

Craib, a retired construction worker, is president of the 120-member Friends of Glen Canyon Park, which was established in 1987. He has nearly a half-century of history with Glen Canyon’s 80 acres. He and his wife, Sandi, built their home on Turquoise Way 46 years ago, on the rim of the park, overlooking the canyon.

Among California Buckeye trees, Craib’s crew—ranging in age from mid-thirties to mid-seventies—worked through the rainy season, hauling milled rails, digging post holes and attaching protective wire that prevents unleashed dogs from digging at the elderberry trees and the California native iris and flowering currant that border Islais Creek.

Parks supervisor Wayne, 12 years with Rec and Park, is concerned about erosion impacting Islais Creek. “The fence safeguards the creek from trampling and protects its water quality,” she said. Noting that creek-side poison oak provides forage for wildlife, but threatens dogs, Hecht added: “The railing has the bonus of keeping dogs safe.”

“This is the most peaceful place in the canyon,” said Craib, eyeing the swollen creek last March, as well as a hollow of native plants he has reintroduced and protected for 14 years.

Nearby, volunteer Mary Huizinga, a retired computer programmer, leaned on a posthole auger a few yards from the Glenridge nursery school. “Along with Golden Gate Park, there’s no greater wild habitat” she said, as she watched a mourning dove light on a redwood branch.

Huizinga has been integral to Craib's weekly work parties for three years. Equally as adept at pulling yellow grass, an invasive weed, as she is at expunging graffiti from canyon signs, Huizinga, a 25-year Laidley Street resident, gave a shout out to the Friends, whose goal is habitat restoration and biodiversity protection. “I know weeds,” Huizinga said. “Oxalis, poison hemlock, wild radish … they’re no friends of ours.”

The Rec and Park department gives its imprimatur of approval to Craib and his community-based brethren. With limited staff and resources of its own,
Butterflies of the Canyon

Our owls may have flown the coop for bluer skies, but Glen Canyon’s native butterflies continue fluttering by. Beyond the fanciful Buckeye—mentioned in the spring issue, the canyon hosts many other Lepidoptera—butterflies. Generally brightly colored, almost all are active during the day, especially sunny days. Take a stroll through the canyon, and keep your eyes peeled.

As you begin your walk along wide Alms Road leading into the canyon, notice the area where restored natives replaced eucalyptus trees several years ago above the creek on your left. Nestled into the banks are patches of stinging nettles that host Red Admirals and Woodland Skippers. These members of the Brushfoot—Nymphalidae—family are common throughout the United States. Distinguished by black hind-wings with red-orange marginal bands, and black fore-wings offset by irregularly shaped white spots close to their wingtips, Red Admirals range from less than two inches up to three inches, and tend be brighter and larger in summer.

Other Brushfoot family members in the canyon are Field Crescents and Mourning Cloaks. Mourning Cloaks have brown bodies and wings, spotted royal blue dots along their wingtips and white margins. When the road ends, continue along the path to the willow area and watch them alight and feed. Butterflies feed by sipping plant nectar and stick around through fall. After mating, the females lay single eggs on the undersides of host plants and once the green-with-light-yellow-striped caterpillars hatch they immediately begin eating. Before the radishes were introduced, the cabbage whites ate native mustard family plants, such as San Francisco wallflowers.

Large Marbles and Woodland Skippers are the two other butterflies in this group. Large Marbles enjoy the same diet as the Cabbage Whites. You can tell them apart by the scattered white scales in their black-patterned forewings and dense green marbling on their hind-wings’ undersides.

Past the boardwalk, across the bridge, up the hill, and by the rock outcropping around the oak trees, you will find the third of this group, the Woodland Skippers. They spend their days nested in the rock cracks. If you are out in early evening, they can’t be missed, swirling and looping through the sky on petite, tawny orange wings. Easy garden visitors, Woodland Skippers enjoy bunch grasses and plants in the mint family, such as sage.

From this point in the canyon, take one of the several paths to finish your walk and notice these and other lepidoptera.

Hopefully an organized butterfly walk will be one of Friends of Glen Canyon’s spring outings next year. Liam O’Brien, San Francisco’s resident butterfly expert, recently published an informative and beautifully illustrated brochure (he is also the artist) on Butterflies of San Francisco. To obtain a copy or learn more about our local flying wonders, visit the web site www.nature-infthecity.org.

Eco-Notes

Considering that you won’t have to walk them, save for braces on their teeth or do much more than enjoy free entertainment, it seems natural to host a butterfly garden. As a neighbor of the canyon, your garden can support the same plants to nurture every stage of the butterflies’ life cycle.

It is important to provide habitat for each of the four stages in the metamorphosis of butterflies, from egg to larva, pupa and adult. The plants that do this vary and are an article’s worth of information. In the meantime, get started by providing warm, sunny, level locations with perching spots to warm their wings for flight: plants for the caterpillars to munch; and nectar or mud for the adults to drink. Examples of beautiful, available, easy-to-grow plants that will beckon these beauties to your backyard are trees such as the buckeye and willow for moist areas, holly-leaf cherry and toyon in dry spots. Shrubs include coyote brush, ceanothus and sages; herbaceous plants such as yarrow, aster and gum plant; and numerous local annuals that support butterflies.

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

Alma Hecht is a Friend of Glen Canyon Park member, neighbor, and owner of Second Nature Design. She looks forward to answering your garden design questions. Please enjoy her web site, www.secondnature.bz and e-mail her at alma@secondnature.bz.

digging the dirt:
news from the garden club

Similar to “nasty, brutish and short,” our yards are small, overgrown and neglected. Very few people really “do” their yard in our neighborhood, or so I thought.

Many people here have a garden worthy of a landscape architect—probably because they are dealing with a cliff-like situation that demands professional help. But many of us are also thinking green these days—not just about the environment but about money. Conserving it!

One of the green companies interested in working more in our neighborhood is MyFarm (myfarmsf.com). Company representatives came to talk to the Glen Park Garden Club about their new concept—using your yard to farm and grow food. There’ll be some food left for your neighbors, community-supported agriculture (CSA) style. That means you get a basket of veggies and fruit fresh from your garden every week, but you don’t do the work!

This decentralized urban farm needs a sunny yard and a minimum of 128 square feet of viable garden space. MyFarm installs the garden, complete with site analysis, soil testing and design. They garden out of raised beds with drip irrigation and dry-land farming. You pay for this and for weekly maintenance. The cost ranges from about $600–$1,000 for installation and around $35 for weekly upkeep. They’ll need pedestrian access and also access to water.

Each garden supplies produce for two to five families. You can keep your share of the produce, but the rest is sold, CSA-style, to the neighbors by MyFarm.

A Glen Park local, Allison Arieff, is using the service for the second year and says the garden crew is like family. Last year MyFarm grew about 30 different species in her 150-square-foot space. Arieff got to know the varieties, and this year the farmers are working with her to grow her favorites. They spend a bit more than 40 minutes a week in her garden, and they get to know the kids, too! The only downside? Becoming a vegetable snob.

It really is a great way to make your land valuable without sweat equity on your part! They use no machines, and don’t be surprised if your gardener bicycles to your property. MyFarm reduces your carbon footprint, and you can’t eat more local than your own yard.

Oh yeah: It can save you money too!

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

in glen canyon park
Scavengers
continued from page 1

owners. They roam the city in uninspected vehicles with unsecured loads, threatening public safety. They pay cash to individuals who go through the bins, collecting small quantities in plastic bags and shopping carts. Much of the stuff ends up at independent recyclers and all-night scrap yards in Oakland and Richmond. The operators get paid more if the recyclables are separated by type. (There are sixteen different categories of glass, plastic and paper.) To maximize profits, illegal sorting houses, as well as garages and backyards—often in the middle of residential areas—have become locations for this middle-man operation. Blue bins themselves are stolen so this “fine sort” can be accomplished efficiently.

This is a far cry from the bygone days of garbage collection. From the time of the Gold Rush until the early 1900s there was little coordination. People collected trash by horse and wagon, perhaps a man and his brothers, or scavengers with wagons. Turf battles ensued and in 1921 two cooperatives were formed. One, Scavengers Protective Association and Golden Gate Disposal and Recycling, handles the financial and business districts. The other is Sunset Scavenger, which covers San Francisco’s residential areas. The original workers of both these co-ops each got one share of the organization. In 1932 residents voted for a permanent system and today Sunset Scavenger is 100 percent owned by its employees.

Robert Reed, 16-year spokesman for Sunset Scavenger, disputes the notion that Sunset Scavenger is some corporate behemoth with bottomless pockets: “We’re not Exxon. We’re a local company. We’re a small company. We’re here taking care of San Francisco.”

Though it is beginning to seem as though there might be nothing left for Sunset Scavenger to collect, Reed says that the 650 tons collected each day by Sunset Scavenger probably represent only 90 percent of what is set out on the sidewalk. That material goes to its sister company, SF Recycling and Disposal at Pier 96, where it’s sorted, baled, sold and shipped.

Much has been written about the economic impact of recycling theft on the city, and residents worry that their garbage rates will go up the more theft there is. Reed estimates that annual losses of recyclable materials amount to $2–5 million. Revenue generated from the sale of materials fluctuates with the economy, and it’s been down since last October. In the best of times, these revenues cover only half of Sunset Scavenger’s costs, which include over 100 workers in the plants, trucks, drivers, fuel, insurance, containers, maintenance and other overhead. Labor accounts for 69 percent of the company’s operating costs.

When the recyclables leave the San Francisco system, there’s less material to process and sell, and less money coming back to pay for the program. The rate we pay, currently $24.75 per month for a regular-sized bin, is set every five years by a board made up of the City Administrator, City Controller and the S.F. Public Utilities Commission.

Legal remedies against recycling theft are numerous. It is illegal under state law, which says that once trash is in the bin, it becomes the property of the program authorized by the City, i.e., Sunset Scavenger. It is also against state law to operate a fleet of paper, must show ID and be paid by check or electronic deposit. This has been met with some degree of skepticism by a jaded public, which assumes the scavengers will easily duck the law by working with smaller quantities and making other adjustments to their operations.

In light of all this, the police have ample ammunition to cite or even arrest the violators. What seems to be lacking are the resources—and possibly the will—to really crack down. While many residents have been demanding action for years as the problem has exploded, others have just as strongly expressed sympathy for those who are most visible—elderly women, often Asian, who have turned to taking recyclables as their means of support. They have not been linked to the big operators and are not a target for the police, who want to focus on the worst offenders.

The sight of these often tiny women, laden with their huge bundles yoked across their shoulders, trudging along, scouring affluent neighborhoods such as ours, causes more sadness and pity than consternation and rage. Janet Tarlov, of Canyon Market, has a “regular” at her store. The lady told Tarlov she earns $10 a day from her foraging. That, plus the food pantries operated by our local churches, helps keep her going. Interestingly, with the economic meltdown, more younger people are getting into the trade.

One account of the ubiquitous Asian elders appeared recently in New American Media. “In China, recycling is an art form with a viable infrastructure not seen anywhere else on this planet. Nothing goes to waste…” It tells of Zheng, who earns around $360 a month at the Haight recycling site. “In China, my life was better…” I used to drive a tractor, but all my family came here. My wife had surgery and we have a hospital bill of over $20,000. Of course, my wife helps me collect—even after her operation.”

One person who tries to help is Anni Chung, who offers the elders information about Self-Help for the Elderly, which provides free hot lunches and other social services. But most rebuff her offer, explaining that this way of life is the only way they can maintain their independence and not be a burden on their adult children.

The Glen Park Parents Yahoo group had one of its liveliest exchanges ever when a posting about the April recycling theft patrol, and Capt. O’Leary’s request that residents report it, brought forth a flurry of outrage. Julian Gross, of Sussex Street, wrote, “If someone is poor enough to scavenge through my can for a few cents’ worth, they’re welcome to it; somehow I’ll survive, and so will Sunset Scavenger.” “I really think that law enforcement should be focusing their efforts on actual crime, not immigrants trying to make a living in a wealthy neighborhood,” wrote Josie Laine; “I will not participate in this effort.”

Joyce (last name withheld) saw things differently: “I just want to remind people that SF’s recycling program is really excellent; they fetch a lot of money for our discards because the recycled materials are so clean (i.e., low level of undesirable materials mixed in)—so truthfully, people that are pirating these materials … are stealing—sometimes what amounts to rather large sums. In addition there’s the potential for identity theft…”

Erik (last name withheld), of Harper Street, noted in a lengthy e-mail to Ingrid and Mission police stations, “quality of life’ crimes, while seemingly insignificant, often beget larger problems. As we can learn from the ‘Giuliani Effect’ in New York in the 1990s, the elimination of these crimes has the positive effect of driving our other unwanted behavior that can develop in neighborhoods that tolerate the smaller crimes.”

Indeed, Robert Reed of Sunset Scavenger says that this problem does not exist to such a degree in suburbs such as Burlingame and Palo Alto: “They just won’t put up with it.”

Glen Park seems conflicted. Many are fed up with recycling theft. Others reflect quintessential San Francisco values and focus on the human plight that plays out each week, on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays …
McGuire Real Estate is pleased to announce the affiliation of Glen Park’s #1 agent Howard Reinstein at its Noe Valley office.

Known for applying a high standard of service to properties in every price range and to every client, McGuire’s values are a perfect match with Howard’s philosophy of impeccable service and the development of lasting relationships.

Howard will also be the sales manager for McGuire’s Noe Valley office.

Howard Reinstein
#1 Glen Park Agent
hreinstein@mcguire.com
415-296-2105
www.howardreinstein.com

#1 Glen Park Agent | Top 2% Nationally
More Glen Park Homes Sold Over $1 Million
Chairman of Sponsor Development, The Glen Park Festival
20 Year Glen Park Home Owner
Partner Chenery Park Restaurant

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

A busy real estate market has sprouted this past spring in Glen Park. As of press time, there were nine single-family homes listed for sale in our neighborhood, ranging in price from $849,000 to $2.1 million. Four condominiums and TICs also were listed for sale, ranging in price from $299,000 to $819,000.

There has been increased traffic at our open-house showings, indicating that buyers are getting serious about purchasing a home, and are finally getting off the fence. Confidence levels are increasing with the passage of the federal stimulus package, as well as the low interest rates being offered by many lenders.

Of the 15 properties sold in Glen Park since February, two sold above the asking price, three sold at the asking price and rest sold under.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>List Price</th>
<th>Sold Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>418 Arlington #2</td>
<td>$719,000</td>
<td>$690,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>507 Congo</td>
<td>$699,000</td>
<td>$725,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2650 Diamond</td>
<td>$869,000</td>
<td>$862,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Farnum</td>
<td>$749,000</td>
<td>$749,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>226 Fairmont</td>
<td>$1,198,000</td>
<td>$942,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Hillritas</td>
<td>$1,998,000</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>158 Laidley #3</td>
<td>$549,000</td>
<td>$442,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>178 Laidley</td>
<td>$949,000</td>
<td>$950,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 Lippard</td>
<td>$1,195,000</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 Mizpah</td>
<td>$949,000</td>
<td>$965,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130 Roanoke</td>
<td>$789,000</td>
<td>$747,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>214 Roanoke</td>
<td>$799,000</td>
<td>$755,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>178 Randall</td>
<td>$995,000</td>
<td>$925,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Sussex</td>
<td>$849,000</td>
<td>$849,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53 Wilder #405</td>
<td>$889,000</td>
<td>$871,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Realtor Vince Beaudet works for Herth Real Estate. He can be reached at 861-5222 x 333 or vincebeaudet@herth.com.

Glen Park E-mail Lists

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

Other neighborhood lists include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Fence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Rec and Park encourages volunteer stewardship of Glen Park’s prized open space.

“We find such partnerships invaluable,” said Wayne, recalling the mountains of weeds the Friends have purged. “Neighbors on the ground,” she added, “can teach the value of the canyon to visitors.”

The Friends’ new fence didn’t go unnoticed by some knee-high guests. A column of Glen Park Elementary School kindergartners trooped past, thrilled after seeing an owl that returns annually to nest with her babies in a favorite eucalyptus tree.

“Looking neat, you guys,” commented their teacher, as Steven Uchida, a retired postal worker who lives on Monterey Boulevard, emptied a rusted wheelbarrow full of rocks into a post hole. Several weeks earlier, Uchida had navigated the weathered barrow through suction cups of mud, lifting it over a knotty tree stump and sustaining a pulled calf muscle.

Wednesday work parties come with such hazards. Jean Conner, who has lived on Sussex Street for 35 years, tugged at menacing milk thistle. Conner, an 18-year canyon volunteer, recounted a time when, high above the creek, past carpets of invasive wild radish, she cleared a hummock from encroaching cotoneaster. On the slope where World War II victory gardens were planted, she disturbed a wasps’ nest, setting off a swarm of yellow jackets. One buzzed beneath her shirt. “They were mad as all get out,” said Conner.

Mary Huizinga enters her canyon sojourns, where she jousters with the Algerian ivy that smothers some of the canyon’s 157 benign native plants. “Working here is more satisfying than working in my own garden by myself,” she said, thinking of comrade-in-arms Linda King, who lives on Moffitt Street and Bob Barth, a retired HUD administrator, who lives on Fairmont Street. She enlisted both in battling inimical French broom, which often grows to 10 feet tall and shades indigenous plants.

Near the end of the work day, Craib and Barth finished tying on the metal reinforcing rods to stabilize the green mesh wire at the fence’s apron. Eventually tools were stored in Craib’s truck, work gloves stuffed into backpacks, rain boots removed and debris collected, and the volunteers prepared to leave along Alms Road, which would return them to Elk Street.

Julie Carlyle, a frequent walker who is familiar with the many miles of canyon paths, strode over. She rested for a while next to volunteer Charles Gresl, a retired mechanical engineer, who lives on Topaz Street, the same block as she does. As Carlyle watched, Gresl finished wrestling a four foot ocher post, fashioning a rough-hewn fence similar to the hardscrabble railing that kept cows from 10-year-old Abe Lincoln’s vegetable garden 190 years ago.

Carlyle smiled her appreciation. “We’ll enjoy this fence for years to come. I wish it were in my backyard.”

Those interested in learning more about Friends of Glen Canyon Park can contact Richard Craib at 648-0862 or Jean Conner at 548-8576. The group’s regular activities are listed in the “Community Calendar” on page 20.
Vince Loves Glen Park

Glen Park’s #1 Community Involved Realtor®
Over 50 years combined experience with business partner Suzanne Boyle.

Glen Park Festival
SF Association of Realtors
Canyon Market Advisory
Glen Park Graffiti Watch

National Association of Realtors
Glen Park Association
SF Apartment Association
Glen Park Garden Club
SF Property Owner’s Assoc.

Call me for a Complimentary Consultation!
www.herth.com

Vince Beaudet
415.861.5222 x333
vincebeaudet@herth.com
**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:** Wednesday, July 8, 7–9 pm, Glen Park Recreation Center. Capt. David Lazar, the recently appointed commander of the SFPD’s Ingleside Station, will speak.

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**
Meetings and Plant Restoration

**Work Parties:** Third Saturday of each month, 9 am–noon.

**Next dates:** June 20, July 18, Aug. 15.

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

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

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

**SFPD Community Forums**
Third Tuesday of every month, 7 pm. During even months—February, April, etc.—meetings are held at Ingleside Police Station, John Young Way off San Jose Avenue. In odd months meetings rotate among various community locations; for where, call the station at 404-4000, or subscribe to the captain’s daily e-mail newsletter at david.lazar@sfgov.org.

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

**Next dates and locations:**
- June 16, Ingleside Station
- July 21, Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets
- Aug. 18, Ingleside Station
- Sept. 15, Excelsior Branch Library, 4400 Mission St.

**Glen Park Branch Library**
Denise Sanderson, Glen Park Branch manager, lists a variety of coming events in her column in this issue. You can always check with the library for a full list of scheduled programs and events. All programs at the library are free.

All branch libraries will be closed on July 4.

Following are a few of the children’s events planned for this summer at the library, 2825 Diamond St.

**Baby Rhyme & Playtime:** For ages birth–18 months, Tuesdays, 10:30 am.

**Preschool Videos:** For ages 3–5. Next dates: Monday, July 20 & Aug. 10, 10:30 am.

**Heather Rogers:** Saturday, June 20, 1:30 pm. Magic and more for children of all ages.

**Jim Stevens:** Tuesday, June 23, 10:30 am. Folk songs for children of all ages.

**Insect Discovery Lab:** Friday, July 17, 4 pm. Specialists will bring live insects for kids ages 5 and older to observe and handle.

**Weekly Work Parties:**
- Every Wednesday, 9 am–noon. For the current week’s meeting place contact Richard Craib, 648-0862.
- To join Friends of Glen Canyon Park or learn more about their activities, contact Richard Craib at 648-0862 or Jean Conner at 584-8576.

**SFPD Community Forums**
Third Tuesday of every month, 7 pm. During even months—February, April, etc.—meetings are held at Ingleside Police Station, John Young Way off San Jose Avenue. In odd months meetings rotate among various community locations; for where, call the station at 404-4000, or subscribe to the captain’s daily e-mail newsletter at david.lazar@sfgov.org.

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

**Next dates and locations:**
- June 16, Ingleside Station
- July 21, Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets
- Aug. 18, Ingleside Station
- Sept. 15, Excelsior Branch Library, 4400 Mission St.

**Glen Park Branch Library**
Denise Sanderson, Glen Park Branch manager, lists a variety of coming events in her column in this issue. You can always check with the library for a full list of scheduled programs and events. All programs at the library are free.

All branch libraries will be closed on July 4.

Following are a few of the children’s events planned for this summer at the library, 2825 Diamond St.

**Baby Rhyme & Playtime:** For ages birth–18 months, Tuesdays, 10:30 am.

**Preschool Videos:** For ages 3–5. Next dates: Monday, July 20 & Aug. 10, 10:30 am.

**Heather Rogers:** Saturday, June 20, 1:30 pm. Magic and more for children of all ages.

**Jim Stevens:** Tuesday, June 23, 10:30 am. Folk songs for children of all ages.

**Insect Discovery Lab:** Friday, July 17, 4 pm. Specialists will bring live insects for kids ages 5 and older to observe and handle.

**Donor Thank-You & Plaque Presentation:** Wednesday, July 8, 4–6 pm. Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will formally unveil the permanent plaque honoring major donors to the Glen Park Branch neighborhood library campaign. Patrons will be using the library, so a quiet celebration is planned, with entertainment and refreshments.

**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, including these:

**Children’s Summer Program:** Monday through Friday, 10–4, for children entering K–5th grade this fall. Enrollment is ongoing. Call the Si Se Puede Learning Center, 695-0449.

**Kindergarten Readiness Program:** Tuesday–Wednesday–Thursday, 10–11:30 am. For children ages 3-1/2–5 who will not enter kindergarten this fall.

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

**Benefit for The Family Link:** Saturday, July 18, 5 pm. St. Aidan’s provides the venue for a tasty discussion and presentation of Pakistani cooking by Shabnam Gul, a mother of three young daughters, whose family has found refuge at The Family Link’s donor-supported nonprofit guest house. (The family of five was granted U.S. asylum June 10.) Donations requested. For information and to RSVP (space is limited) call The Family Link at 867-4726.

**Walk for a Cause**
Summertime brings a variety of walk-a-thons that enable the athletic and the not-so-fit to help support worthwhile causes. Two local walks take place in July. Don’t delay if you want to register, volunteer or donate.

**Avon Walk for Breast Cancer:** Weekend of July 11–12, San Francisco, Golden Gate Bridge, Sausalito and points unannounced. Contact avonwalk.org, or 888-488-WALK.

**AIDS Walk San Francisco:** Saturday, July 19, Golden Gate Park. The granddaddy of AIDS walks has raised nearly $70 million since volunteers first collected pledges and walked through the park in 1987. Visit aidswalk.net, or 415-615-WALK.

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

Check online for the latest information at birdbeckett.com, or call owner Eric Whittington at 586-3733. Shop hours are 10 am–9 pm every day.

**Coming Events:**
- **Three book groups** meet monthly, at 7 pm:
  - **Bird & Beckett Book Club:** 1st Wednesdays. A book is discussed each month; participants choose the next month’s selection.
  - **Political Book Discussion Group:** 2nd Thursdays. Call for the title.
  - **Eminent Authors’ Birthdays:** 4th Thursdays. For these open readings, bring a short piece from the works of a favorite writer born during the month to read aloud.

**Which Way West?**:

**Poetry with Open Mic:**
1st & 3rd Mondays, 7–9 pm. July 6 - Poets David Meltzer and Paula Hackett. July 20 - Poets Julia Vinograd and Mel C. Thompson. Open mic follows these readings.

**Literary Talks:**
Last Sundays, 2:30 pm. Call for details.

**Special Events:**
- Sunday, June 21, 2–4 pm: Travel talk by Dore Stein, host of the KALW radio world music program “Tangents” (Saturdays, 8 pm–midnight); previews of fall tours to Turkey and to Morocco, plus music and a reading by author/poet Clara Hsu.
- Monday, June 29, 7 pm: Author Farai Chideya reads and signs her debut novel, Kiss the Sky.
- Sunday, July 26, 11 am–noon: Kids’ shadow puppeteer Sean Powers.

**Sunday, July 12, 3–4 pm:** Novelist Lian Gow reads and signs Only a Girl, a novel of Chinese society in Indonesia between 1930–1952.

**Sunday, July 19, 3–4 pm**: Novelist Vincent Louis Carella reads and signs Serpent Box, a novel of snake-handling fundamentalists in Appalachia.

**Wednesday, July 22, 7–9 pm:** Laborfest Writing Group Reading, “Learning from Ancestors,” hosted by Alice Rogoff.

**Poetics Series:**
Tuesday evenings, July–August. Inquire at the store about this 6-week course offered by David Meltzer and Neeli Cherkovski.