



GLEN PARK NEWS

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Final Chapter: The Glen Park Library Opens

It cost \$5.5 million and was eight years in the planning, four in the building. But by Elizabeth Weise
Glen Park's very own library—the first non-rental space it has ever known—finally opened.

Saturday, Oct. 13 marked a new beginning for Glen Park with the Grand Opening celebration for the branch.

The day dawned clear and bright, an appropriate portent for the day Glen Park had been awaiting seemingly forever. Restaurants may make us a destination and the market makes us a fully functional neighborhood, but a library—especially such a big, beautiful library—gives us a center.

While Glen Park has had a library branch since January 1927, until now it has never had a library-owned space. The previous five sites were all rented, and because of that the library has been forced to pack up and move four times.

This time the move was the library's decision, into a grand and glorious new space that is six times larger than the previous library around the corner on Chenery Street, now home to Bird & Beckett Books. The new library, located on the second floor with large windows overlooking the neighborhood, sports one-third more books, 16 computers rather than three, free wireless Internet access, a dedicated children's area and a community meeting room.

It's all courtesy of the Branch Library Improvement Program, the fruit of a \$105.9 million bond measure passed by San Francisco voters in November 2000. The program set off the largest building campaign in San



Ribbon cutters included former Glen Park librarian Sharon Dezurick, Mayor Gavin Newsom, unidentified girl, Donna Bero of Friends of the Library and City Librarian Luis Herrera. Photo by Michael Waldstein

Francisco library history. All told, 17 branches will be renovated, four leased facilities—one of them Glen Park—will be replaced with City-owned buildings, two branches will be replaced with new buildings, and one brand-new branch has been built in Mission Bay, the first new City branch library in 40 years.

San Franciscans are clearly thrilled with the results of that massive overhaul program, as library staff learned from previous library openings. When the Excelsior branch opened on July 9, 2005, the massive crowd, which spilled

off the sidewalk and into the street, took everyone by surprise.

But the library staff were ready for Glen Park library patrons. Diamond and Wilder streets were blocked off fronting the library, and several thousand people crowded the streets, waiting for the moment when they could storm the stairs and finally see their new library.

District 8 Supervisor Bevan Duffy led off the day's speakers by telling the growing crowd that Oct. 10 had been Mayor Gavin Newsom's 40th birthday.

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Rape 'Victim' Recants Story, Neighborhood Relieved

A woman who told authorities she was raped and mugged last month in Glen Park has recanted her story, police told the neighborhood.

by Rachel Gordon

"I'm grateful she came forward and told the truth," said Capt. Denis O'Leary, commanding officer of Ingleside Station, which has jurisdiction over Glen Park.

The reported crime had the neighborhood on edge, with many residents scared to walk down the street because the alleged assailants

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Glen Park Association Meeting Notice

Tuesday, January 15, 2008, 7 p.m.
St. John's School, 925 Chenery St.

Election of Association Officers for 2008
Department of Parking and Traffic—Possible Pilot Program to
Test New Parking Controls in Glen Park Village

From the Editors

The past year has brought a lot of changes to Glen Park.

Just look at the commercial heart of the village. Canyon Market, which recently marked its one-year anniversary, has taken root in the neighborhood; upstairs, the new branch library finally opened to high expectations and rave reviews. Librarian Denise Sanderson took over as branch manager. We wish her success.

A fire displaced the framing shop, and business decisions resulted in the closure of The Bug children's consignment shop and the Paragraph boutique. But the empty storefronts they left behind aren't expected to be vacant long, with new businesses readying to move in.

Two popular full-service restaurants opened—Le P'tit Laurent and Gialina's—further cementing Glen Park's growing reputation as a dining

destination. Eggette's has turned into a favored hangout for the teen and tween sets. La Corneta is standing-room-only most lunch and dinner times. Still, Tyger's remains king when it comes to out-the-door lines on weekends.

In Glen Canyon Park, we finally got some good news with the addition of a full-time custodian, Glen Loi. His work cleaning the rec center bathrooms and maintaining the grounds nearby has not gone unnoticed, and is much appreciated. What a difference a dedicated person with a mop and broom makes.

We bade farewell to our admired and hard-working top cop in Glen Park, Capt. Paul Chignell, commanding officer of Ingleside Station. He was replaced by Capt. Denis O'Leary, a veteran of the San Francisco Police Department who promises to work in partnership with the community.

Crime continues to be a concern in Glen Park. There have been a number of strong-arm robberies and a carjacking over the past year. It is imperative that we in Glen Park keep pressure on Mayor Gavin Newsom, Supervisor Bevan Dufty, District Attorney Kamala Harris and the rest of our elected repre-

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Glen Park Association News

"FIRST EDITION – JUNE 1975 -- The Glen Park Association proudly presents its first newsletter."

by
Michael
Rice

That first edition—an 8½-by-11, four-page newsletter—was the first item I came across in a Glen Park Association file box stowed in my garage. About 10 boxes have been in my care since the Recreation and Park Department took back a storage space under the stage of the Glen Park Recreation Center.

The four-page edition morphed into a four-page (typed!) tabloid by 1976. In 1977, *The Glen Park Perspective*—with the eucalyptus grove logo we still have on the *Glen Park News*—was a four- to eight-page newsprint monthly. I found a binder of 1977 GPA board and general meeting agendas and minutes, along with folders of glossy photos of neighborhood events and people.

What do you see in these archives? Well, GPA dues started out as \$1 "minimum" per member per year. The first two GPA committees were Traffic, and Zoning & Planning. The branch library was on Diamond

Street, and there was concern when the rent was going to be \$650 per month. Glenridge Co-Operative Nursery School in the park had fall 1975 openings.

By May 1976, the "Twelfth Edition" reported on the potential development of 20,000 square feet of commercial space, and 36 apartments, along Bosworth, Kern and Diamond streets. (That site, of course is still in play as part of the 2003 Glen Park Community Plan.) May 1976 also advertised, "HIGHER GROUNDS – AT LAST! GLEN PARK'S 1ST COFFEEHOUSE." The phone number was 587-2832: KUP-A-TEA.

BART access 1976: The apartment buildings/retail spaces south of today's Young De Restaurant on Diamond Street was then a BART-owned "kiss-and-ride" lot for 12 cars.

In September 1978, Hal and Susan Tauber bought Glen Park Hardware from Ed Josephson, with a photo of the happy new business owners. Another story about BART discussed plans to use the BART-owned lot on Arlington Street for a 75-space "kiss-and-ride" lot, to ease "rush

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Glen Park News

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The mission of the Glen Park Association is to promote the collective interests of all persons living in Glen Park, to inform and educate about neighborhood and citywide issues, to promote sociability and friendships and to support beneficial neighborhood projects.

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To advertise in the *Glen Park News* call 908-6728 or e-mail advertising@glenparkassociation.org.

Letter to the Editor

Dear *Glen Park News*,

Does having a nursery school in the park improve the neighborhood? Joan Siewald asked this question in the Fall Edition of the *Glen Park News* as part of her letter concerning the recent growth in our community. While I can sympathize with her concerns regarding the BART proposal, I hope readers will agree that having a place in our neighborhood where we can instill the values of nature and community in our children is a benefit to all.

Having Glenridge Co-op Nursery School in the park has many immediate and long-term benefits for our neighborhood, as well as the city of San Francisco. Glenridge parents bring the same level of enthusiasm they have for their preschool into the Glen Park neighborhood.

They deliver the local newspaper, start neighborhood watches, join PTAs and support Glen Park businesses, even after their children have moved on to elementary schools. Check the line at La Corneta, and you will see Glenridge families. They get their hair cut at Park Salon, buy cheese at the Cheese Boutique, eat at Chenery Park on Tuesdays. Glenridge families also participate in community events like the Glen Park Festival and Family Fun Fest.

Glenridge families respect the Canyon so much that only one percent of our population ever drive in. (Through self-monitoring, parents only drive in to pick up a sick child or bring heavy supplies.)

The frequent foot traffic of parents and children trekking in and out of the canyon make it safer for dog walkers, joggers and bird watchers. Each year,

staff members from the school provide first aid to individuals who didn't see a low-hanging branch or got stung by a bee. They rescue lost dogs and search out their owners. They dispose of broken bottles and pick up litter from the canyon.

Having the building occupied full-time prevents costly vandalism from occurring. When graffiti appears on the school, parents make sure that it is painted quickly, preventing it from becoming an eyesore in the canyon.

The school community also makes improvements to the building, ultimately saving tax dollars that would be necessary to make the same improvements. In the last few years, we have applied for and received grants to install new windows with metal shutters, new floors throughout the building, and a double oven.

Besides these immediate benefits, Glenridge's setting provides interactions with nature that help children become enthusiastic and inquisitive naturalists. Children who have the opportunity to go to preschool in the canyon learn that nature is a source of endless interest and excitement. One of our goals for the children is to encourage the development of positive feelings toward nature and to lay the groundwork for a lifetime of respect for nature.

Rather than regard the preschool as another example of unwelcome growth in Glen Park, I would hope that Ms. Siewald see the school as a means to preserve the things we most value in our neighborhood. If we don't instill a love of nature and community in our kids, who knows how that may affect Glen Park in the future.

Kathleen Tracey
Glen Park resident
Mom to Henry, Glenridge Class of '08

GPA News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

hour congestion" and double parking on Diamond Street. BART planners also proposed a contract for "jitney" service between the station and areas not well served by Muni. (We are still dealing with this congestion; and what about the mini-bus service idea?)


The same edition also announced the proposed new Continental Savings and Loan building at Bosworth and Chenery streets, site of a former gas station. In March 1979, the *Perspective*, Volume IV, number X, illustrated the remarkable plan to purchase and move most of an 1871 Victorian building slated to be demolished in the Western Addition, to be restored as the upper floors of the new S&L. Sadly, the plan was not feasible. Instead we now have the Citibank building, which was designed with a strong Victorian style.

Membership cost \$2 per year in 1979, and a classified ad that June listed a "Sunny 2 bdrm house with view. Convenient Glen Park location... \$325 + utilities."

The GPA board and membership meeting minutes in those years record concerns about parking in residential areas, traffic speeds and stop signs, Muni service, maintenance in the parks, and street tree planting. Shall we just say déjà vu?

Some things have changed for the better, though: the September 1978 board minutes note that "there is a dire

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A True Story of Puppy Love Inspired by Friendly Coyote

by
Jennie Z.
Rose

Skunks, rabbits, gophers, red-tailed hawks, owls, raccoons and the two coyotes spotted this summer and fall call Glen Canyon Park home. We all generally coexist without interacting. The arrangement seems to work out fine: We go inside at night, and the wildlife has the decency to stay out of sight during the day.

But when a gorgeous coyote pup kangaroo-hopped into Janet Kessler's life at dawn last summer on Twin Peaks, it was the beginning of an unusual kind of courtship—one that has spawned a very local best-seller.

Over the course of many months, the animal, looking like a "skinny little dog," made playful overtures to Kessler

and her own dog by bounding toward them, then scooting away as if to invite chase. She then hunkered down about 50 feet away on the trail with rear raised in the universal sign for "Let's play!"

"She never came right up to me; she stayed a certain distance, but she did stay around," observed Kessler, who named the animal "Myca," short for "my coyote."

"When we sat down on the ground, she sat down too. She wanted to get to know us. My opinion is that this was a child coyote, a pup, and her curiosity overcame her judgment."

Kessler was so taken with Myca that she signed up for a photo class so she could catch the essence of the coyote's personality on film. She has now pro-

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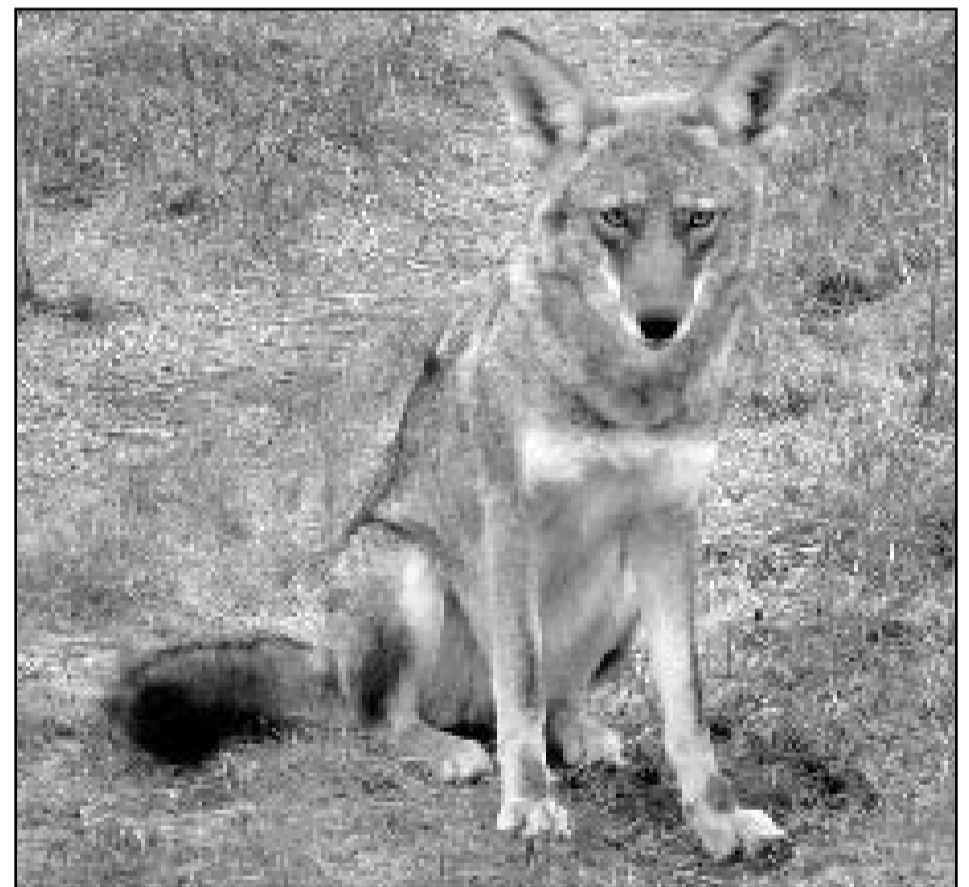
Sara's professional background includes time at The White House, where she was selected to serve as an intern in 1994. Her stellar career path brought her back to San Francisco, where she worked as a paralegal for the Office of the District Attorney and for several civil law firms.

Over the years she has developed a knack for research, problem solving, and sifting through complex issues. Now, she is committed to working hard for you, and for your home. Call her today for truly empathetic real estate advice backed by solid research and expertise.



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Myca, the Twin Peaks coyote.

Photo by Janet Kessler

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Led by the Gum Tree Girls 40 Years Ago, Glen Park Won War Against Freeway

Zoanne Nordstrom vividly remembers the day four decades ago when she found the man digging a hole in Glen Canyon Park.

by
Gail
Bensinger

Nordstrom had taken her 18-month-old son to play in the park, as usual, and she asked the hole-digger what he was doing. He answered that he was making a test boring for the new freeway viaduct that was going through the park. "I said, 'The hell it is,'" she recalled.

She quickly linked up with two other neighborhood moms equally opposed to the new route, which would have required removal of at least 180 mature trees and put both the playground and baseball diamond next to or under heavy traffic.

Nordstrom, Joan Seiwald and Geri Arkush were dismissively dubbed "The Gum Tree Girls" by pro-freeway City Engineer Clifford Geertz. Gum tree is a common name for the blue gum eucalyptus—the trees forming a park windbreak that would be at risk under the City's plan.

The mid-1960s was an era of citizen activism, with the civil rights movement underway and the anti-war movement just beginning. It was also the tail end of the massive road-building program known as the Interstate Highway System, which brought high-speed traffic into most major American cities.

In San Francisco and elsewhere, city residents fed up by the automobiles-first policies promoted by the highway engineers pushed back. Here, local forces managed to block one new

highway through the Golden Gate Park panhandle and another in Glen Park.

"The plan they had for San Francisco, it was like L.A. It was like every mile-and-a-half, there was a freeway," Nordstrom told the *Glen Park News*. "It was like a snake, a hydra of roads."

Before finally giving up on the whole idea, City officials modified their plans—from an elevated freeway to a parkway, to a plan for broadening O'Shaughnessy Boulevard and eliminating a "dangerous" curve where it meets Bosworth. In 1967, after years of disputes and protests, the City finally threw in the towel, and the "high capacity roadway" idea was abandoned. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the neighborhood victory.

Yet that outcome was anything but assured as the trio of housewives, with 11 kids among them, got to work. Arkush died in 1999, but both Seiwald and Nordstrom still have scrapbooks they compiled of newspaper clippings and letters sent and received. Both women say today the three of them didn't know what to do at first. They all learned quickly—ideas "flowed from one to another," Seiwald said.

They began a letter-writing campaign to all 11 members of the Board of Supervisors, then-Mayor John Shelley, politicians in Sacramento and Washington, TV and radio stations, City officials. They appealed to developers then building on Diamond Heights, pointing out that the views of the park from atop the hill—a major selling point of the new homes—would be damaged by an elevated viaduct.



Image courtesy San Francisco Chronicle

They wrote letters to the editors of the three most prominent local newspapers, the *Chronicle*, the *Examiner* and the *Progress*. Eventually the *Progress* took up their cause in editorials.

In a memoir that Seiwald wrote at the time, she said that at the outset "the only real encouragement we received was from our husbands." But they persevered, drumming up opposition in the neighborhood from people "fed up with freeways." No City money had yet been appropriated, she wrote, and the three Glen Park women were determined "that if we had to tie our children to the trees, we were going to save our park."

They formed a Save the Park Committee, with Nordstrom as chairwoman. The themes in all their public appeals, Seiwald said, were "natural beauty, retention of the middle class in the city, saving the park for future genera-

tions and the planned destruction of our neighborhood."

Nordstrom said City officials expected to get their way "because this neighborhood was very heterogeneous, and it wasn't full of rich people who care."

The trio buttonholed every group they could think of, including churches and PTAs. Eventually, their publicity campaign began to produce results—it was an election year, and some supervisors—who in those days ran citywide and not by district—offered support.

If conventional approaches didn't work, they tried humor to win sympathy for their cause. Nordstrom remembers bringing lunch, including a thermos of martinis, to then-Supervisor George Moscone's office. When he asked how many neighborhood residents they had behind them, Nordstrom told him in her best stage whisper, "upwards of 50,000."

The actual number was a lot smaller, of course. But when they organized a meeting at Glen Park School to protest the freeway plan, on Nov. 9, 1965, about 400 people showed up, most of them pro-park and anti-freeway.

"Even if Joan and Geri and I were the spearhead people, it was a community effort that really worked," Nordstrom said.

In the lobby of the new Glen Park Library there is a photo of the Gum Tree Girls as part of its artwork. As a former long-time president of the Glen Park Association, Nordstrom dogged the market-library project until it became a reality.

"People said, 'Oh, you can't fight City Hall.' I said, 'No, you have to try, or you deserve what happens to you.' That's kind of always been my motto," she said. "And if you try and make an effort, and it doesn't work, at least you'll know that you tried, and did your best." ■

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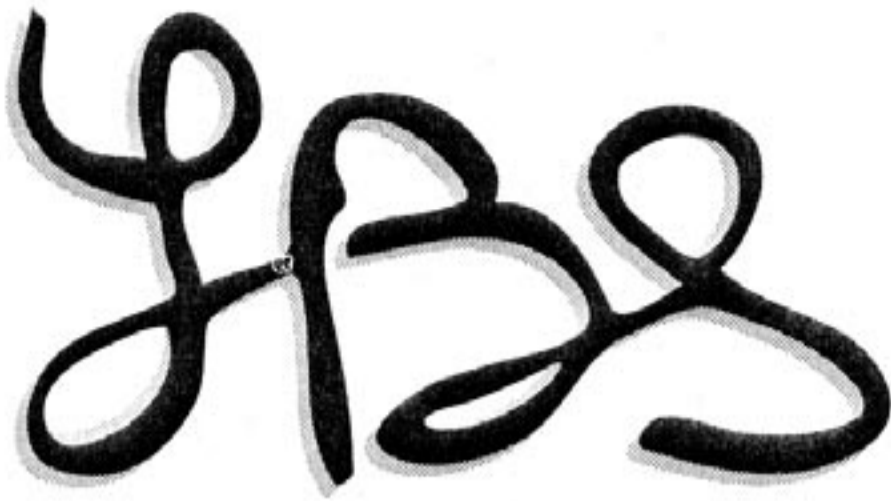
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Gustatory Gaps in Glen Park Shrink with Pasta and Sushi

Glen Park is all grown up. A more-humble-than-haute neighborhood a generation ago, the area around Chenery and Diamond began to morph into a culinary destination in 2000, with the opening of Chenery Park, now a local institution.

The year 2007 saw the coming of Gialina and Le P'tit Laurent, and although both have been talked about citywide (I've had friends drive in from the East Bay to try our 'hood's famous new pizza), locals are the most enthusiastic supporters.

Happily, Glen Parkers can look forward to the opening of two more restaurants in the next few months. If the roaring success of their predecessors is any indication (anyone who's witnessed the crowds waiting for tables on Diamond Street would agree), the new competitors won't be hurting for business.

The first to open will be a Japanese-Latin fusion restaurant located at 678 Chenery St. Ric López, owner of Modern Past and president of the Glen Park Merchants' Association, reports that the opening of Sangha—which means

a gathering or community of people in Sanskrit—is imminent, although he was hesitant to name a date for fear of disappointing readers. The menu will feature classic sushi as well as other Japanese dishes “with a twist.” Sangha will offer moderate-priced lunches, a fine-dining dinner experience, a wine menu and a “great sake selection.” Locals will be able to call in orders for pick-up.

Manhal Jweinat, owner of Higher Grounds since 1982, reports that the inspections for his upcoming project, in the old Bird & Beckett space at 2788 Diamond, are under way. This new family friendly addition to the neighborhood will have the feel and menu of a comfortable Italian trattoria, offering pastas and other casual dishes. Jweinat studied in Italy for six years, working in restaurants to support himself. Joking that his moonlighting clearly has served him better than his art degree, Jweinat says that he is looking forward to taking on the role of head chef, supported by a second, at this new locale, while continuing to manage Higher Grounds. The Italian restaurant will serve dinner only. Jweinat expects it to open in the spring. ■

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Neighborhood News and Notes

- Our own Cheyenne Loftin turned 97 on Sunday, Nov. 18. If you've spent any time in the village you've seen Cheyenne, a steady figure making his early morning way from his house at Lippard and Chenery down to Tygers for breakfast, or sitting outside at a neighborhood café taking the sun. Cheyenne spent many years working with cattle, as his cowboy boots and hat attest. Hal and Susan Tauber of Glen Park Hardware have a card out for birthday wishes for Cheyenne. We send our best wishes along as well.

- Our condolences to Joanne, whose flowers at the Glen Park BART station have gladdened so many hearts. Joanne's husband died suddenly and unexpectedly in October. She spent much of November shutting down the couple's other flower shop but is now back at BART. Our thoughts are with her and her family.

- Congratulations to our official

Glen Park Branch Librarian, Denise Sanderson! As of mid-November, her title no longer includes the word “Acting.” That's only fitting, considering the work she's done these past many months to guide the library's move to its new quarters.

- Did you know Glen Park has its own entry in Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia? The entry hasn't been updated in awhile (it's still got the library under construction) but someone's done a nice bit of work there. If you've got items to add to it, in the Wikipedia tradition, the address is http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glen_Park,_San_Francisco,_California.

- And a final bit of trivia: What Glen Park landmark is the size of the Queen Mary?

Answer: The BART station. If the underground portion was turned on its side, it would be as high as the Transamerica building. ■

Schools In and Near Glen Park Get Big Spike in Applications

With the high price of gasoline and growing awareness of global warming, there's a new focus on local—eat local food and support local businesses. Rachel Gordon
Glen Park families also can extend the concept to local schools. The area is home to four public elementary schools.

With the Jan. 11 deadline looming for parents and guardians to apply to the San Francisco Unified School District, the local elementary schools deserve a look.

The area is also home to two Catholic schools, which have separate application procedures.

When applying to a public school, each student can list up to seven desired schools. Some families get turned away from all their choices. However, for the current school year, 87 percent of kindergarten applicants got one of their top picks.

Just because a child lives in a particular neighborhood doesn't mean he or she automatically will be assigned to the school closest to home. The San Francisco Unified School District strives to give families a choice of where to send their children, but in the end the district's goal is to achieve a demographic balance at each campus. That said, if a family picks a neighborhood school, and the child's demographic profile meets the district's desire, he or she will be given preference over someone from outside the area.

Over the past five years, the demand for the elementary schools in or closest to Glen Park has been steadily increasing—one of the strongest indicators that their reputations are on the rise.

In 2003, for example, 79 students

requested Glen Park Elementary in Round One of the application process; this year the number was 136. Sunnyside Elementary saw its number of applicants rise from 41 to 94 during that same period. At Fairmount Elementary the number rose from 151 to 261, and at Miraloma Elementary the number nearly quadrupled, jumping from 84 to 320.

With the exception of Sunnyside, the Academic Performance Index (API) for area schools improved in the most recent ranking. The API, considered by the California Department of Education as the cornerstone of the state's Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999, measures academic performance and how schools measure up when compared with one another.

Glen Park Elementary bumped past the crucial "800" mark—the statewide performance target—in the last API ranking, scoring 801.

"Eight hundred is what everyone aims for, and we hit that," said Glen Park Principal Marion Grady, voicing pride in the achievement.

As for the other area schools: Miraloma hit 767, up 69 points from the previous year; Fairmount reached 705, an increase of 19; and Sunnyside dropped to 755, down 23 from the year before.

While the API ranking is an important indicator, it is by no means the only one to judge whether a school should be considered. Grady, who has been Glen Park's principal for 25 years, has more to boast about:

"We have a school that's clean, that has kids who are engaged, teach-

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Glen Park Elementary School.

Drawing by Eleanor Murphy-Weise, age 6

GLEN PARK NEIGHBORS



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Glen Park Association Meeting

SFPD Capt. Denis O'Leary, the commanding officer of the Ingleside Police Station, gave his inside phone number out at the fall Glen Park Association meeting. "If it's an emergency, call 911," he told the crowd of 40 or so neighbors who filled the eighth-grade classroom at St. John's Elementary.

"If it's not an emergency, call 553-0123. If it's a nagging concern, something that won't go away—call me," said O'Leary, whose jurisdiction includes Glen Park. His number is 404-4030.

O'Leary, a 26-year SFPD veteran, came to us from Southern Station as part of a habit the force has of rotating its captains every few years. Ingleside is O'Leary's third posting as captain.

He arrived at the Oct. 9 GPA meeting right on the dot and had clearly done his homework, giving the crowd a rundown of the crimes that had happened within Glen Park in the past month. It came to a total of 32 within a half-mile of 100 Bosworth St., which was his working definition of the neighborhood. Most were smaller property crimes, stolen cars, burglaries. There was one shooting, on Addison Street, a dispute over money. The person who was shot is OK, O'Leary said. Although the suspected shooter was identified, he ran and hadn't been caught at last report.

In general, "car break-ins are the No. 1 crime in this neighborhood," he reported.

Capt. O'Leary has created a free Yahoo electronic mailing list to update residents of the Ingleside Station territory about crimes in their neighborhood. To receive a copy of the Ingleside Station newsletter, send an e-mail to: InglesideStationNewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.com

One of the reasons O'Leary was transferred to Ingleside was to encourage the practice of officers walking beats. Currently there are two walking beats in the station's jurisdiction, both on Mission Street. One is centered at Geneva Avenue, the other at Cesar Chavez Street. Given Glen Park's extremely low crime rate compared with the rest of the area the station covers, it's highly unlikely that a beat officer will be assigned to Glen Park.

BART Update

Next on the meeting agenda was a presentation by BART Director Tom Radulovich, who represents Glen Park on the BART board. His topic: the BART parking lot at Bosworth and Arlington streets. He said it isn't actually a lot that BART planned for; it was

just excess land that the regional rail system owned.

BART is thinking of developing the lot. But, Radulovich was careful to point out, exactly what will be built there, if anything at all, will be the result of a very long, thoughtful process: "We're patient, we're looking at this over the long haul," he said.

After years of dealing with issues around development, BART has learned that it's much better to begin with the community and a developer working together. The idea "is not to get a developer who creates a plan which everyone hates, and then the knives come out," he said.

BART wants to turn the parking lot and the area around the Glen Park station into something that will benefit the whole area: "People have talked about a plaza, about open spaces. We're looking at affordable housing. But people don't want too many more cars, so senior housing is a possibility," he said.

But none of this will happen without a great deal of input and study from the neighborhood and various City and regional groups, including the City's Planning Department, which will do an Environmental Review, and a traffic study, he vowed.

Of course some people want no changes at all: "I've gotten letters telling me that replacing the parking lot with affordable senior housing is crazy," Radulovich said.

Another long-term BART plan is to help knit the Glen Park BART plaza into the community. "It really only touches the neighborhood now," Radulovich said.

And of course Radulovich acknowledged that that process can be an extremely slow one: "The glaciers may melt, we may run out of oil, before the City finishes their environmental review plan."

Handicapped Parking

The final portion of the meeting addressed the possible need for more handicapped parking in the village.

There are currently three blue spaces on Bosworth, and one in front of Citibank. Supervisor Bevan Dufty's office has received 15–20 calls requesting more spaces be reserved for people with disabilities. Bryan Wo from the City Department of Parking and Traffic said that there were only three possible options for additional handicap-only parking spaces:

- NW corner of Diamond and Chenery, in front of Tyger's.
- NW corner of Diamond and Kern, but the sidewalk is narrow.
- SE corner of Wilder and Dia-

Coyote

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

duced a small, 40-page photo booklet, *Myca of Twin Peaks, our mild-natured neighbor*, which is flying off the shelves down at Bird and Beckett.

Coyotes usually run as loners or in loose packs when their food supply allows. They are notoriously shy of humans, while at the same time—as animal behaviorist Marc Bekoff of the University of Colorado notes—they are strikingly individualistic with adaptive behaviors that defy expectations.

Because of the innate individualism and flexibility of the coyote family, Myca's rapport with her human friend grew into a unique relationship. But eventually, Kessler and her dog started bumping right into the animal, "face to face," too often, she reports in the booklet. Myca was getting attached.

It's lucky for this animal that she befriended someone who views the separation between humans and the wild with respect. Kessler may have been smitten with the charismatic coyote, but entertains no delusions that she is some kind of "coyote whisperer." When she saw that the dividing line had inched toward her to a degree that seemed unwise, Kessler took several steps back.

In recent months as Myca has matured, her kangaroo bounces of "glee" are diminished, replaced by a more cautious aloofness. And though it's a kind of heartbreaking long goodbye, Myca's increasing distance from Kessler is exactly what she should be doing if this coyote is to survive. ■

Coyotes are re-colonizing San Francisco rapidly, according to a newly released film San Francisco—Still Wild At Heart. The one-hour natural history film chronicles the return of coyotes to San Francisco, and celebrates the wildlife that survives and thrives in our urban landscape. It is available for purchase at Bird & Beckett Books. A free screening will be held on Dec. 12 in Socha (cafe on Mission Street across from Valencia).

mond, but that would require removal of a tree.

Dufty's aide, Rachele McManus, said their office is working on getting the space in front of Citibank cleared of news racks, which currently pose access problems for people who use a wheelchair.

McManus said if neighborhood residents have thoughts or concerns about either the availability of handicapped parking, or handicapped spaces being blocked, they should contact her at Rachele.McManus@sfgov.org, or 554-6968. ■

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Bond Measure Would Provide Big Bucks for Park Upgrades

What a no-brainer—how could anyone be against clean and safe neighborhood parks? Especially residents of Glen Park, who cherish our wild and wide-open space with ferocity and passion?

In October the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond for the February 2008 ballot. Since this will also be the presidential primary election, a significant voter turnout is virtually guaranteed.

If the ballot measure passes by 66.1 percent, we might see some of our hopes and dreams for Glen Canyon Park become reality. An early poll showed 69 percent approval. District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty has come out in support of passage. Our park is one of a dozen parks and playgrounds included in a \$185 million general obligation bond issue that is summed up in three words: safe, clean and green. Its goals are to fund seismic upgrades; hazardous materials removal; repair of playgrounds, pathways, retaining walls and stairways; replacement and repair of restrooms; replacement of irrigation systems; and creation of new waterfront open space.

Glen Canyon Park's budget for improvements is \$4 million. That compares with the Chinese Rec Center at \$19.5 million and Raymond Kimbell Playground in the Western Addition at \$2.6 million.

Though \$185 million seems like a huge sum, the numbers get even more mind-boggling. The Department of Recreation and Parks estimates that the total cost of addressing the backlog of all the needs in the City's parks is \$825 million. Other special properties such as Camp Mather near Yosemite, various City golf courses including Sharp Park in Pacifica, which is owned by San Francisco, Golden Gate park and the Yacht Harbor add another \$865 million, for a system-wide total need of \$1.7 billion.

The last parks bond was passed in 2000 and covered 63 projects; Glen Canyon was bypassed in that one (but nearby Walter Haas Playground got a major renovation). Prior to that, the last time Glen Canyon Park had major work done was after World War II. If the 2008 bond is defeated, it will be 2013 before another parks bond hits the ballot, adding five years to the already decades of deferred maintenance.

The parks bond issues are part

of the 10-Year Citywide Capital Plan which ends in 2015, and includes San Francisco General Hospital (November 2008, \$800 million), Crime Lab Relocation (2010, \$56 million), Criminal Justice Facility Earthquake Safety (2011, \$600 million) and other proposed projects, totaling over \$2 billion.

In 2000 a significant beginning was made in breaking through the starvation of the parks' resources. But the money ran out before all the projects were completed. That has left a bad lingering aftertaste with many, lessening their appetite to spring for yet another "fix-it" bond measure.

In addressing these concerns, Rec and Parks is featuring accountability objectives in its presentations, to show that it has learned from the past: transparency and oversight, objective means of selecting projects, commitment to projects by name and location, realistic cost and schedule estimates, regular public reporting of expenditures. To make sure all projects are completed this time, there are funds set aside within each allocation for contingencies and cost escalation, factors that doomed many of the projects in the last parks bond. For Glen Canyon Park, this means an additional \$1.8 million set aside in addition to the \$4 million projects estimate.

In addition and importantly, whereas the 2000 bond raised property taxes by \$42, the bonds proposed in the 10-year plan promise no increase in property taxes. The bonds will be issued as existing bonds are paid off ("retired") or the property tax base grows.

How Glen Canyon Park fits into the proposed scheme is an interesting question. An outside consulting group performed a capital assessment of parks facilities. Some of the other parks slated for improvement are the Chinese Rec Center, Mission Playground, Sunset Playground, Mission Dolores Park, Palega Playground and a half-dozen others. The way the parks qualified to make the list was through a scoring process, which rated them on the repairs needed and to what extent they were multi-use parks and facilities. Then extra points were given for seismic

safety need and density. On that basis, the Chinese Rec Center was number one with a score of 95 and Glen Canyon Park was number 10 with a score of 58. The cutoff was after number 12, Raymond Kimbell Playground, when the dollar estimate reached \$124 million. Beyond Kimbell, an astounding 111 City parks and playgrounds of all sizes will have to wait in line for the 2013 bond proposal.

The difference between the \$124 million allocated for the individual sites and the total bond of \$185 million is for special projects. These include waterfront parks, restrooms, ball fields, trail

restoration, trees, and community opportunity grants. Glen Canyon Park is listed as eligible for reforestation and trail funds, which would be in addition to the \$4 million specifically allotted. Other monies could be secured if community groups apply for and receive Community Opportunity Grant funds for capital repairs and improvements that are built into the bond.

Of the 12 parks and playgrounds that made the cut, Glen Canyon Park is the only one that is a regional park, as opposed to a neighborhood park. Rose Marie Dennis, communications and public affairs director for Rec and Park, says this makes the process of improving our park more complex than the other parks. "Because it is one of the most unique, has one of the oldest rec centers, comprises significant natural areas, is a heavy-duty, multi-use and multi-function park, with day campers, pet owners, rec center users with program needs, and a community with many opinions about the venue, with concerns of erosion, canopy, old facilities, land management, mounting needs—proper planning and expertise is necessary."

The other parks on the list are already slated for specific projects, such as playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, and irrigation systems.

Between the time the bond passes and October 2009, when these projects would be getting underway, there would be a master planning process for Glen Canyon Park that would involve Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects, which are now in the process of being defined. According to the bond report prepared by Rec and Parks, "the work may include repair and/or renovation of the recreation center, the children's play area, day camp, courts and field; restoration of roads and

pathways; upgrades to the infrastructure including lighting and irrigation, modifications to the site to remove barriers and improve accessibility, and overall reconditioning of the park landscape."

Phase 1 projects would be funded with the 2008 bond; there is no current prediction about Phase 2. However, it is guaranteed that planning activities will be funded outside of the bond, and bond money will be used exclusively for the specific projects. Whatever these projects turn out to be, the current schedule has them completed in January 2013.

Even if passed, the bond will be only one part of financing the seemingly endless list of needed improvements. Other monies may come from Open Space funds, the parcel tax, landscape assessment district and state grants.

In the months leading up to the election there will be many hot-button issues. The waterfront parks component has piqued resentment in the neighborhoods, who feel the City shouldn't be funding ambitious new parklands (the "Blue Greenway" is to stretch continuously from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Ball Park), while the bond, even if passed, will only scratch the surface of the accumulated needs of the neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

Despite the great effort put forth to ensure accountability and transparency in the bond, there will be many skeptics who just will not trust that this time the job will get done. Then there is an ongoing "turf" battle within the combined system of parks and recreation. Landscape and forestry advocates feel shortchanged because of the heavy capital investment and ongoing maintenance needed for recreational facilities. Too much emphasis is placed on seismic safety of structures rather than investment in landscaping, they maintain. Environmental groups might oppose the bond on that basis.


Others make the point that trees are not necessarily eco-friendly in San Francisco's semi-arid climate. Some don't want freestanding bathrooms in their parks, fearing the upkeep and potential for attracting undesirables.

Some of these issues and many others, no doubt, will be hotly debated in the Glen Park neighborhood as the election draws near. We face an ongoing challenge to stay informed, weigh the issues, and make a choice that is right for Glen Park and San Francisco.

For the complete bond report, visit www.sfgov.org/site/recpark_page.asp?id=64140.


For more information, read Glen Park Advisory Board member Miriam Moss' assessment of the park bond on Page 16. ■

*The last time
Glen Canyon Park
had major work done
was shortly after
World War II.
The proposed bond
would set aside
at least \$5.8 million to
improve the park.*



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Glen Park Library

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Let’s really wreck his day and sing him ‘Happy Birthday’ as soon as he gets here,” Dufty said.

The library-provided book bags (1,000 were handed out commemorating the event) and the fine spread of treats provided by local businesses Canyon Market, Eggettes and Destination Baking were stretched out on tables along Wilder Street. Thankfully the street’s newly laid asphalt had cooled down, having been on the ground less than four days. Dufty said his standing joke is that Glen Park had been chosen as the site of the 2010 Winter Olympics so it could be held on the moguls of Wilder street.

The bottom-scraping, jaw-clenching ride down Wilder was courtesy of a stand-off between the City and the developer of the library/Canyon Market/condos project, Kieran Buckley. One of the many requirements for green-lighting the project had been that Buckley complete sewer work on Wilder. But the agreement had left unclear who was responsible for paving the roadway after the work was done. Both sides claimed it was the other’s job, leaving residents to jump and bump their way down the street.

Some behind-the-scenes arm twisting by Dufty finally orchestrated a compromise and the road was paved with just days to spare.

Buckley was off to the side in the crowd but Dufty called him out. “There were times when the whole process of planning for this library was problematic in the neighborhood,” Dufty said.

That was an extremely restrained phrase for the knock-down, drag-out fight that a small minority of business owners and residents had waged against the project because they worried about the loss of parking. The anti-campaign featured mysterious and unattributed signs posted that used incorrect perspective to show an enormous tower of a building utterly out of synch with the block, lawsuits with unnamed backers attempting to stop it and numerous impassioned meetings.

The situation became so nasty that the original developer decided to sell out. Into that extremely fraught moment came a new developer, Buckley, willing to take on a project that even by San Francisco blood-sport planning standards was proving to be difficult.

Dufty called Buckley over and said, “I know he’s a straight Irish guy, but I’m going to give him a hug.” Buckley, perhaps more distressed at being in the public eye than being hugged by our gay supervisor, escaped with a sort of half hug, half handshake.

Soon thereafter the mayor—at the time on the campaign trail for his re-election bid—did arrive, about 20 minutes late, and the crowd dutifully sang “Happy Birthday.” Newsom responded, “It’s great to be 30!”

City Librarian Luis Herrera spoke next. He first thanked Val and Wilhelm Tietz, who provided the old library space at 653 Chenery St.: “In 1978, when rental property was hard to come by and we lost our lease, Val and Wilhelm rented us a space at below market rates. Without them, we wouldn’t have had a library.”

Next he thanked tireless Glen Park volunteer Nora Dowley (former editor of the Glen Park News and current ad coordinator) for all her work on the library committee. “It’s her birthday today,” said Herrera. “She told me she knew it would be sunny because it never rains on her birthday.” Dowley’s prediction was true, because the day turned into a glorious, sunny and warm autumn afternoon.

Herrera told the crowd that our neighborhood clearly really loves the library. City funds paid only for the shell, while the interior fixtures, fittings and furniture had to be purchased with money raised through Friends of the Library. The goal was \$150,000, said Herrera.

But Brian Wong, who led the campaign, told the crowd that when everything was added up, the neighborhood had actually raised \$210,000.

Next Herrera thanked librarian Sharon Dezurick, a Glen Park resident who staffed the old library for years. Dezurick, like Moses, lived through all the hard years of work to get the new library in place but didn’t make it to the Promised Land. Just months before it opened she decided to take a half-time post at the Mission Branch.

The library got a blessing by the lion dancers of the Jing Mo Athletic Association and then the moment everyone had been waiting for came and the crowds, following the mayor and Herrera, streamed up the staircase to view the new facility.

The festivities continued long into the golden afternoon, with performances by Cotton Candy Express, Steve Stein and Friends, the Flying Angels Chinese Dance Company and the San Francisco Scottish Dancers.

Appropriately, the first book checked out at the new building was Joan Didion’s *The Year of Magical Thinking*, said the library’s newly named manager, Denise Sanderson. All told, 1,085 books and videos were checked out that day and 1,411 people walked through the doors. In the final two weeks of October, 302 new library cards were issued at the branch. ■

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11:00 am—Sunday Choral Eucharist
Following the model of more traditional Anglican worship, incense, organ and choral music are used in this high-church service. While it is a very traditional service in most aspects we use more inclusive language in our references to God so that a wider variety of 21st century people may feel included and so that we can continue to expand our image of a loving God. Children are always welcome. Coffee hour follows.




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by
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**Eric Tong, Waiter
Hong Sing Restaurant
2794 Diamond St.
(415) 333-1331**

“To the ruler, the people are heaven; to the people, food is heaven.”
—Ancient Chinese proverb

Don't let the environment of Hong Sing Restaurant fool you—while it may seem sparse, edging on the fluorescent-light-cold side, the food is not.

Sweet steamed buns filled with pork sit in the window. A passerby can glimpse the steam rising behind the counter from the many trays filled with hot foods—vegetables, fish, chicken and more, all in tempting combinations.

The food is Cantonese, originating in the Guangdong area of the People's Republic of China. Canton, the common English name for the region, lies about 75 miles northwest of Hong Kong. Typically, the Cantonese food tends to be simple in comparison with foods from other regions, such as Szechuan. Many of the dishes are steamed or stir-fried, with little oil. In fact, when my husband and I eat there we often ask for very little oil, no MSG and no sugar, and the

food always comes exactly to order.

While most people are familiar with pot stickers, egg rolls or Cantonese wonton soup, Eric Tong, one of the many wonderful people on the staff there, suggests that patrons try other, less familiar dishes, such as the Hong Sing special ribs. David and I, being West Coast vegetarians, love the steamed ginger fish as well as the braised tofu and stir-fried pea greens. During Chinese New Year, we look forward to the New Year special, Buddha's Delight (lo hon jai), a vegetarian dish with a wonderful range of textures and tastes with ingredients that include ginkgo nuts, noodles, carrots, mushrooms and lotus seeds. Not quite as good as traveling to Canton, but close.

Born in Canton, Eric emigrated to San Francisco in 1981 while in his early 20s. His father arrived first, establishing himself and then sending for the rest of his family.

Eric studied English, and began working at Hong Sing in 1991, about four years after the restaurant opened its doors. With his longevity, knowledge of food and the neighborhood, Eric has been a part of the Glen Park community for many years. He and his family live in San Francisco. ■

**Susan and Hal Tauber,
Proprietors
Glen Park Hardware
685 Chenery St.
(415) 585-5761**

The floors are made of wood and squeak when you walk on them. The space is small, crammed to the ceiling with gadgets, nails, mops, brooms, hooks, screws, bolts, keys. The aisles are one-way only, with space for one person going in one direction, so if you have to ask Hal or Susan Tauber to find an item for you, you always have to let them lead the way.

A 2001 History Channel program on the history of hardware stores called them the lifeblood of towns in America—always having what was needed to survive, or knowing how and where to obtain it. They were described as places where people could find “the elements that hold our world together” and “the place where we go when things fall apart.”

Glen Park Hardware has filled these needs for the neighborhood since about 1963, when the store was first owned by Ed Josephson. Hal and Susan Tauber bought the business in 1978.

Hal Tauber was born and raised in San Francisco; Susan lived and went to school in Boston. They had to leave the continent and travel to Israel for

their respective junior years abroad in order to meet and fall in love while studying in Jerusalem. After finishing school, they married and Susan moved to San Francisco. Both studied teaching and planned to work in the school system.

“The year 1978 was a hard time for teachers,” said Susan. “There were no teaching jobs and both private and public schools were cutting back and laying off teachers.”

This was the time of Proposition 13, the initiative that restricted increases in property taxes which, in turn, greatly affected public funding for schools and libraries.

“We were living here in Glen Park. There were no teaching jobs. In fact Hal had a regular teaching job in the summer school program with the school district, and then summer school was cancelled. The hardware store went up for sale. Ed Josephson was 65 and wanted to retire. So we bought it.”

Susan commented on the hardware store in ways that resonated with the historic role these stores have had in the history of the country: “Although we can't carry large equipment because of our small space, our role has been one of convenience. We help people [get] through their projects. When something's broken, people want to get it taken care of and get on with



life. Although we aren't professional plumbers or carpenters, we are experienced in problem-solving from a lay point of view.”

Customers benefit from the Taubers' patience, cultivated during their years of teachers' training, and their ability to describe the function and proper use of the diverse, often unfamiliar, items in their stock. If someone needs something they don't have, they can often order it from their supplier, or suggest another

source.

“We enjoy being here and appreciate being supported by the community when they come to a local store,” Susan said. “We have a great bunch of customers.”

And, the Tauber family leaves a small carbon footprint getting to and from work. “We love the commute,” said Susan. “It's a block-and-a-half walk.” ■

See Hal and Susan when they first opened the store, pictured on page 22.

Explosive Revelation: Glen Canyon Ties to the Nobel Prize

Recently, former Vice President Al Gore spoke at the offices of the Alliance for Climate Protection in Palo Alto to acknowledge his receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize. Yet it might have been just

by
Evelyn
Rose

as appropriate if he had held his news conference in Glen Canyon. Nearly 140 years ago, Glen Canyon played a foundational role in the accumulation of wealth that in the 20th century would become the world's most important prize of peace, science and literature. Alfred Nobel, father of the high-explosive industry and philanthropic provider of the Nobel Foundation, personally licensed the first dynamite factory in the United States—the Giant Powder Company—right here in our beautiful canyon.

In an amazing paradox, nitroglycerin is not only the explosive chemical in dynamite but is also used as a drug in the treatment of chest pain or discomfort known as angina pectoris. Nitroglycerin was first discovered by Ascanio Sobrero of Turin, Italy in 1846. Noting its unpredictable volatility and power and its propensity to cause violent, debilitating headaches, Sobrero shelved nitroglycerin as being too dangerous and unsuitable for commercial manufacture. Ironically, the medicinal value of nitroglycerin was being realized in parallel. By the end of the 1870s, the ability of nitroglycerin to relieve the attacks of chest pain associated with angina pectoris had been documented in the medical literature, making it one of the oldest drugs in our modern medicine cabinet.

In the eyes of Victorians during the Industrial Revolution, Nature was to be conquered if one was to snatch her wealth of valuable ores and transport her treasures via more expeditious overland routes—*through* mountains rather than over or around them. Black powder, first developed in China as early as the tenth century, had been the mainstay of blasting and artillery. But with the explosion of progress in the new Industrial Age, black powder was quickly losing its efficiency and advantage. The conquest of Nature needed a more powerful tool.

The young Alfred Nobel of Stockholm, Sweden took up research into the explosive properties of nitroglycerin in 1859. After resolving problems in the manufacturing process, Nobel directed his attention to the most sure and complete detonation of nitroglycerin, at least five times as powerful as black powder. Nitroglycerin burned when exposed to flame but the heat was never hot

enough to cause an explosion. Nobel discovered that his “blasting oil” was most powerful when exposed to a flame under pressure (for instance, poured into a bore hole) and if ignited with an initiating agent. His 1867 patent for a blasting cap containing mercury fulminate as the initiator marked the beginning of the high-explosive industry.

Nobel experienced immediate commercial and financial success with his invention. Yet, he was soon reviled as the demon of death. Hundreds of people around the world perished while unknowingly traveling or coming in close contact with shipments of the volatile liquid that seemed to spontaneously explode with the slightest impact. Nitroglycerin was quickly banned from

all types of conveyance. While researching how to better stabilize the liquid for transport, Nobel accidentally discovered

Glen Canyon played a foundational role in the accumulation of wealth that would become the world's most important prize of peace, science and literature.

Alfred Nobel, father of the high-explosive industry and philanthropic provider of the Nobel Foundation, personally licensed the first dynamite factory in the United States

right here in our beautiful canyon.

that a German clay called kieselguhr (a soft, chalk-like rock) could absorb three times its weight of blasting oil, creating a putty-like substance that could be packed into cartridges and topped off with a blasting cap. Nobel called his safety innovation “dynamite.”

While he never visited California, Alfred Nobel was attracted by the state's entrepreneurial spirit and newfound wealth. Nobel licensed his new invention to Julius

Bandmann of San Francisco, the brother of a close European business associate.

Following a demonstration of dynamite in the blasting of a tunnel for the old Bay View railroad (likely the first use of dynamite in the United States), Bandmann incorporated the Giant Powder Company in August 1867.

Giant Powder Company leased property in the unpopulated “outlands” of Glen Canyon (then known variously as Rock House, Rock Canyon, Rock Ranch or Rock Gulch) from Rancho San Miguel resident L.L. Robinson, who also served as Giant's first president. While dynamite was relatively stable, nitroglycerin was not, and storage was mandated to be as far away from populated areas as possible. The factory began manufacturing dynamite in March 1868, a full two months before the official patent for dynamite was granted to Nobel.

During the first year of production by mills in Rock Canyon and Europe, the total production of dynamite increased from 11 tons to 78 tons. Production at the Giant mill in Rock Canyon continued without a hitch for 15 months. Then, on Friday, Nov. 26, 1869, at about 6:45 p.m., an explosion rocked the one-acre complex, killing the chemist and his teamster driver and injuring nine others. The exact cause of the disaster was never determined.

Because the population of San
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Islais Creek, pre-1880.

Courtesy Emma Bland Smith



Glen Canyon Park, pre-1880.

Courtesy Emma Bland Smith

Nobel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Francisco was advancing closer to Rock Canyon, Giant purchased 100 acres in the sand dunes south of Golden Gate Park, an area now bounded by Kirkham and Ortega streets, and 20th and 32nd avenues. Manufacture began there in February 1870 and continued until another explosion destroyed that complex in January 1879, killing four. The factory then moved to Fleming Point on the Berkeley bayside (now the site of Golden Gate Fields) and began operation in the fall of 1879. Tragically, three more deadly explosions would occur on this site by 1892, killing a total of 66 workers. The plant moved to its final location on San Pablo Bay at Point Pinole, now occupied by East Bay Regional Parks. The Giant Powder Company was acquired by the Atlas Powder Company in 1915.

Dynamite fundamentally changed the way engineering projects were planned and executed, quickly becoming the most popular explosive in the world. It was more powerful, more efficient and less costly than traditional methods. Dynamite had become essential for civil projects that tamed mountains for roadways and railways, captured water for major metropolitan areas, removed

trees and boulders for agriculture, and bored deeper into the earth for mining. It was used to help clear rubble after the 1906 earthquake and conflagration in San Francisco, and is still used to fight oil rig fires. Nobel had changed the world and, in so doing, had become an enormously wealthy man. Ironically, he developed angina pectoris late in life and was prescribed the medicinal form of nitroglycerin for internal use. He refused, remembering all too well the debilitating headaches of his younger years while working with the more potent explosive. He died December 10, 1896, following a severe stroke.

Nobel was a pacifist throughout his life. He despised the fact that the world identified him as an immoral man who profited from the development of violent tools capable of death and injury. Near the end of his life, having no descendants, he decided to leave his

wealth in the form of a fund that would award prizes to those "... who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind ..." in chemistry, physics, medicine and literature. He also specified an award to "... the person who shall have done the most or the best work to promote fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses ...," the award for which Gore was honored.

The Office of Historic Preservation of the California Department of Parks and Recreation designated the first location of the Giant Powder Company in Glen Canyon as California Historical Landmark Number 1002 in May 1991. The description can be viewed at http://www.ceres.ca.gov/geo_area/counties/San_Francisco/landmarks.html.

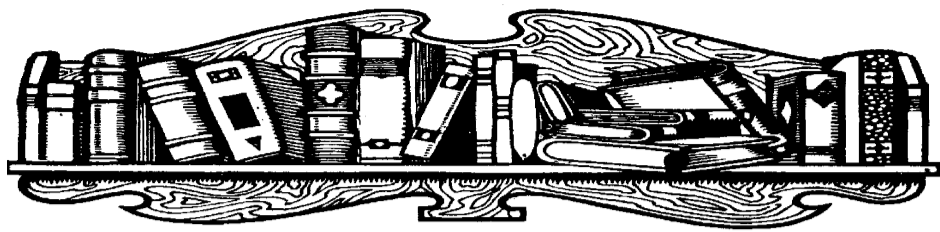
***The state Office of
Historic Preservation
designated the first
location of the
Giant Powder Company
in Glen Canyon
as a California Historical
Landmark in 1991.***

Newspaper accounts of the November 1869 explosion note the location to be "... near the base of a large hill ..." and "... near the old county road to San Jose ..." (now Interstate 280) and "... nearly half way between St. Mary's College and the Industrial School," (now St. Mary's Park off Mission Street and City College, respectively). In *History of the Explosives Industry in America*, first published in 1927, the location of the factory is narrowed to the location of the current Glen Park recreation center and playground, "... in the Park Terrace section west of Burnside Avenue between Chenery Street and Bosworth Street ...," a description that would place it in the baseball field. A grainy photograph that accompanies this proposed location makes it impossible to decipher its true location. However, the authors purport the location is substantiated by a May 1927 letter from F.W. Wallace of San Francisco, who had made several trips to the factory in his youth.

A recent episode of "Eye on the Bay" (CBS5) noted the plaque for the landmark could not be located. While permission was granted by the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board to allow the nomination of City property as a landmark in January 1991, a concerted effort was never undertaken to place a plaque at the physical location. According to the State Office of Historic Preservation (as of May 2006), an official plaque could be placed at the site for \$2,875 plus tax and a \$100 freight charge. It is not clear what is included besides the plaque, including installation, and whether it includes signage directing passersby to the area. It also not does include the cost of plaque maintenance.

Our cultural values have changed dramatically in the past 140 years and we generally now want to protect rather than tame nature. It is clear how the inventions of Alfred Nobel and the accumulation of wealth that ensued established the most prestigious award in the world—the Nobel Prize. However, given the nature of the history of dynamite, some residents may consider the local association our own "inconvenient truth." Community discussion is warranted and, in the end, the residents of Glen Park should be responsible for the decision of whether placement of a plaque is appropriate. ■

Evelyn Rose, a pharmacist and hobbyist historian, is a longtime resident of Glen Park and Diamond Heights. She also volunteers as a docent at Muir Woods National Monument.



Check It Out at the Library!

Join us, as we settle into the beautiful new Glen Park Branch Library, for a new series of monthly book discussions. Our Adult Librarian Kate Brown chose the December selection, *Gilead: A Novel*, by Marilynne Robinson, recommended by readers as particularly appropriate for the holiday season. In 1956, toward the end of Rev. John Ames' life, he begins a letter to his young son, an account of himself and his forebears, including his pacifist preacher father and fighting abolitionist grandfather.

This December we also are starting Winter Reading Programs for both children and adults. Sign up for these programs any time; they will run Dec. 15-Jan. 19.

Kids of all ages can read to earn a small prize, and one lucky reader will

win a polar bear puppet. Participating adults can also win prizes: A \$20 gift certificate from a local merchant will be awarded to each of the three winning grownups.

Glen Park Branch
2825 Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94131
355-2858

Hours
Tuesday 10-6
Wednesday 12-8
Thursday 1-7
Friday 1-6
Saturday 1-6

Denise Sanderson is the new Glen Park Branch Librarian.

Recanted Assault

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were still on the loose.

The 27-year-old "victim" told police that on Saturday, Nov. 10, around 5:30 p.m., she was assaulted by two suspects on Lippard Street, between Chenery and Bosworth streets, as she was walking to her car from the Glen Park BART station.

She said she first was approached by a female suspect who demanded her purse, slapped her and knocked her to the ground. The "victim" said she then was approached by a man who raped her. She later told police that the same man raped her again five days later inside the garage at her Excelsior District home.

It wasn't until two days later that she first reported the two incidents to police. She even worked with a Police Department sketch artist. Detailed drawings of the two suspects

were widely distributed to the media, and police asked for the public's help in tracking down the culprits.

But the woman's version of events raised a number of red flags with authorities. The SFPD's sex crimes detail kept digging. The alleged victim eventually told police she made up the story. She could be charged with a misdemeanor crime for filing a false police report.

O'Leary said that while he of course was thankful that such heinous crimes never occurred, the false claims took up a lot of police resources and unleashed worry in Glen Park, where violent street crimes are not too common.

"This is just an unfortunate circumstance," O'Leary said.

He said that for the time being the foot patrols he assigned to Diamond and Chenery streets in downtown Glen Park will continue. ■

Note from Editors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2


representatives to make public safety a top priority. Lip service won't do.

We need bold initiatives, appropriate resources and a commitment from top City officials to create a community where people can feel safe walking down the street—day or night.

And as people who live and work

in Glen Park, we have to remember that the concept of being a good neighbor goes a long way toward creating a strong community.

On that note, we at the *Glen Park News* and our publisher, the Glen Park Association, wish you good holiday cheer and a happy new year. We look forward to covering the unfolding life of our neighborhood in 2008. ■



GPA NEWSLETTER

FIRST EDITION
JUNE, 1975

The Glen Park Association (GPA) proudly presents its first Newsletter:

PURPOSE OF THE GPA:
(1) To create a neighborhood awareness of potential effects of any nature; (2) To serve as a forum for neighborhood concerns; and (3) To give Glen Park residents a more forceful, collective voice in matters concerning them.

HISTORY:
The Association began as a grass-root organization in the Spring of 1974 with the formation of two neighborhood groups. One group, wishing to further the community spirit generated at the Spring Fair, held that April in Glen Canyon Park, met to decide on ways of organizing. The other group formed in response to a neighborhood crisis last August. At that time a 130-person public assembly hall and residence with off-street parking for only six cars was proposed to be built on the corner of Diamond and Arbor Streets. The proposal was almost cleared by the Planning Department. A few people recruited several of our neighbors; a petition was filed against the proposed building; objections to the hall (congestion, traffic, parking, noise, etc.) were presented to the Board of Supervisors. Glen Park neighbors, by unifying, were able to stop the proposal and thus won the first victory in neighborhood self-determination. The GPA became an official organization with By-laws and election of officers in January, 1975.

OFFICERS:
President: Michael Isaacs;
Vice-President: Milton Brad;
Secretaries: Diane Murchison and Carol Brown;
Treasurer: Thomas Panagiotaros.

MEMBERSHIP:
Membership dues are \$1.00 minimum per member, per year; more generous contributions will be gratefully received. You can join at the next meeting or by mailing dues to the Treasurer, Thomas Panagiotaros, P.O. Box 31324, S.F., CA. 94131.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

INTERESTED IN BECOMING ACTIVE IN A COMMITTEE YES [] NO []

NAME OF COMMITTEE (See Below): _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

ACTIVE GPA COMMITTEES:
(1) Public Transportation & Traffic
(2) Community Maintenance & Beautification
(3) Zoning & Planning
(4) Safety & Police-Community Relations
(5) Newsletter

What are your interests? Library? Fund Raising? Recreation Center?

Glen Park Association Committee Volunteers

The City is moving ahead on review of Glen Park Community Plan, transportation changes around the BART station, and plans in Glen Park Canyon. We are looking for neighbors interested in working on the Association's Planning and Zoning, Transportation and Parking, Recreation and Park, and other committees.

We need your help and interest!

Please e-mail president@glenparkassociation.org, or call Michael Rice at 337-9894.

Memo from City Hall

Glen Canyon Park needs some TLC and I am happy to report that, with your support, help is on the horizon.

At 66.6 acres, Glen Canyon is an enormous and unique natural City treasure that serves as a popular neighborhood and regional park—a hub for youth and adult recreation, a pre-school, a gathering place for dog owners and an important habitat for plants and wildlife.

The park's poor irrigation, heavily used fields and aged facilities (both of the buildings in the canyon are more than 40 years old) have left the park in need of more than \$20 million in repairs.

With the 2000 Park Bond, we began renovating important facilities in District 8: Eureka Valley Recreation Center was lovingly refurbished, Upper Noe Rec Center is slated to reopen in 2008 and Duboce Park's Harvey Milk Rec Center is now under construction.

We've proven that park bonds are an effective tool to repair and rehabilitate our beloved parks and recreation facilities.

In February 2008 San Francisco voters will consider Proposition A, a \$185 million bond measure to repair and restore our neighborhood parks throughout San Francisco. Thankfully, Glen Canyon Park is included in this bond measure.

With Prop. A, Glen Canyon will

receive \$5.8 million to begin addressing the park's enormous capital needs. These funds can be used to start work on the recreation center and the day camp, or to replace the children's playground, renovate the tennis courts and athletic field, or to improve core infrastructure like lighting, irrigation and landscaping.

This \$5.8 million won't pay for everything. But it will be a great start toward fixing up this treasure and will help spur additional state grants and private donations. It is also possible that I can secure annual City funding as we agree upon the blueprint for this project.

Glen Canyon is also on a list of possible open space parks to receive Prop. A funds for trail restoration.

If Prop. A is approved in February, the Rec and Park Department will host community meetings later in 2008 to hear from neighbors and park users about which improvements should occur first. Ballot passage requires a two-thirds majority or more voting in favor.

I look forward to working with the Glen Park community to ensure that we invest in the Glen Canyon Park for future generations. I believe that Prop. A is a great first step. ■

Supervisor Bevan Dufty represents Glen Park and adjacent neighborhoods in District 8 on the Board of Supervisors.



Bookstore on the move

A horde of jazz fiends and bibliophiles descended on the old Bird and Beckett store on Diamond Street over the September 22–23 weekend and formed a human-and-pickup-chain to shift the store's contents to its new incarnation at 653 Chenery St. Photo by Michael Waldstein

Digging the Dirt: News from the Garden Club

The art of being wise is knowing what to overlook. So sayeth the wise gardener in late fall, who uses her or his tiny snatches of "free" time to prepare for next year's planting.

by
Susan
Evans

Begin by making a list of what you need to buy more of, what you've been salivating over, what needs cutting back or pulling. This will help you be strong when the plant catalogs start coming. It gives you direction in the garden, too, when it's hard to remember exactly what you wanted to do. A list confirms your commitment when it comes time to yank out that mature but under-performing plant. The holes left from pulling can be filled with your special soil mix and some compost.

This is the time to depend on the textural interest of your still-green plants. To make arrangements in a vase, you may have to buy a flower or two but you can use your own greenery.

It also may be easier to have a sense of the feng shui in your garden at this time of year.

It's the energy (life force, or chi) that flows throughout the space. When rebalancing the feng shui, change only one thing at a time, to see how you feel about it. It's a lot about your own psy-

chology as well as the feel of the land.

Here's an example: place a garden bench where you don't have a fussy plant, like flowers. A bench can be more serene to sit and think, appreciating flowers from afar. It is not usually relaxing to pick plants, or deadhead flowers or berate yourself for their soil non-prep.

Feng shui is a great justification to buy or rearrange things such as white flowers, metal garden chairs or a barbecue. It is also a reason (as if you need one) for garden art, such as mirrors, plaques, wind chimes or fountains. This is especially true in Glen Park, where your garden is like a room of your house.

Which brings us to what is on everyone's mind now—gifts. Nursery gift cards are a good option. Or a specially planted tray with paperwhites is welcome at this time of year. And a pot with a spring bulb mix (muscaria and daffodils are a good choice) for a January-February bloom is a lovely way for your gift to create memories that last. ■

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



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A NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED BUSINESS



Back in Play

As part of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's Capital Improvement Program, Sunnyside Playground underwent a complete renovation. The park was reopened with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2007. Getting the playground and replacing the park's old, decrepit play area took almost 10 years, including a grueling fight between local dog owners and parents over where the new playground would be sited in the park. But a compromise was finally reached, funding found and the playground, finally, opened to the joy of children throughout the area. We hope it doesn't take so long to rebuild Glen Park's playground when the time comes.

Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

Park Bond on February Ballot: What It Means For Glen Park

In 2000 San Francisco passed a bond measure to fix all parks to various degrees over 10 years, the same year the bonds for libraries was passed.

Glen Park work was to have been started in year four of the bond, 2004.

Perspective
by
Miriam
Moss

But due to political maneuvering, project overruns and mismanagement, Glen Park has not seen a single penny of the money. This is in spite of the fact that an assessment done back in 2001 states that the "Glen Canyon Recreation Center is in poor condition and should be replaced."

Seismic concerns are among the top criteria for renovation projects. Among the many problems of the Glen Park Rec Center is serious seismic instability. In a major earthquake, the Rec Center's chimney likely would collapse, along with the balcony in the auditorium—and this is a building that has been designated as a shelter during a major earthquake.

Other problems include asbestos, lead paint, dry rot, lack of accommodation for the disabled under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), 75-year-old bathrooms that are down a flight of stairs, and a dangerously old electrical system. Not only that, but the building sits on a partial landfill and the foundation is sinking into Islais creek, which is buried beneath it in a culvert.

This does not even address the need for a new playground, because the current play structure is built of arsenic-treated wood from the 1970s. Then there are the erosion problems on the athletic field, issues with the Silvertree building site and all the ADA requirements set by federal law.

You would think that we would be Number One on the list for money with this new bond proposal, but you would be wrong.

Again through another series of political maneuvers and wrangling, the ranking for money in this proposed bond is as follows:

Palega Rec Center:	\$21.2 million,
Chinese Rec Center:	\$14.2 million
Mission Dolores Park:	\$13.2 million
Sunset Playground:	\$13.7 million
Lafayette Park:	\$10.2 million
Mission Playground:	\$7.5 million
Cayuga Playground:	\$7.3 million
Glen Canyon Park:	\$5.8 million
McCoppin Square:	\$5.3 million
Cabrillo Playground:	\$4.5 million
Fulton Playground:	\$4.2 million

Every site *but* Glen Park is being given enough money to fix up their entire site without any phase-in.

All we can do is bank the money. The proposed \$5.8 million for Glen Park can only be spent to finalize a previously proposed master plan and will not finance a single improvement to the canyon. Actual physical improvements would not even be considered unless and until a third bond, which is to be put on the ballot in 2012 or beyond. There is no guarantee it will pass or that we will be given the money we need to fix up our site.

Clearly, every park needs accessible, clean and safe bathrooms. But that's not at issue, the price tag is. Buildings that need new bathrooms, such as Glen Park's Rec Center, won't get them because the cost of the bathrooms would trigger all the other upgrades required by ADA laws.

We need more time to re-access Rec. and Parks choices. In my opinion, a better bond can be put on the June ballot. ■

Miriam Moss heads the Glen Park Advisory Board, which prods Rec and Park to do better by our park.



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On Patrol in Glen Park

Homelessness. You read about it every day in the papers, hear about it on the evening news, witness it on the streets and wonder how it became so prevalent, hoping like the dickens that someone will find a solution.

We intellectually understand the origins and acknowledge that mental illness, substance abuse, economics and poverty are the core elements of the phenomenon. Emotionally, we simply wish it would go away.

We give it a name which has evolved into a political mantra ... *homelessness*.

Although the reality is that the battle that those of us on the frontline of the issue wage is society's struggle to promote, restore and maintain human dignity and—with assistance—self-determination, we refer to it as if it is nothing more than another agenda item at the Board of Supervisors meeting or part of the mission statement of yet another nonprofit.

Glen Park, Bernal Heights and Noe Valley have become something of a haven for a small but significant number of homeless people. With the exception of the myriad enclaves which periodically appear near the Bernal Cut and the hillside which separates Arlington Street from San Jose Avenue, Glen Park has avoided the large encampments that have challenged the quality of life of other neighborhoods.

Nevertheless, I am seeing and speaking to more street denizens than I have in recent memory. Although some of my encounters are the result of a call for service from a resident, most of my contact has been self-initiated.

Many Glen Park residents have asked me what the nature of their response should be when they encounter people in the neighborhood whose appearance indicates they are without a permanent residence and/or may have serious mental health or substance abuse issues. In a city of citizens whose altruism is so close to the skin, there is a definite reluctance to call the police, the assumption being that we will arrest, cite, harass and generally make life even more difficult for these folks. That is neither the intent of our response nor, generally, the result of our intervention.

When I make the acquaintance of an individual who is, for instance, drinking or camping in public, sleeping on private property, dumping trash,

aggressively panhandling or appears to be mentally or physically compromised, I have the right and responsibility to identify that person and learn the nature of their prior police contact—if any.

Often these checks will reveal past drug arrests and warrants for minor quality-of-life violations for which I have the discretion to advise or arrest, likely the former. Less often, the background check indicates the person has a history of theft or violent crime, or is a sex-registrant out of compliance. Obviously, my discretion then narrows and my options decrease.

The above is not to be mistaken for a profile of homeless people, who I find mirror the rest of society: some are criminals, most aren't. The beneficial result of learning about my detainees is that I now can offer them services through the appropriate source, be it voluntary or not. Warrants give me the leverage to convince the minor violators to accept my offer of social services or move to a location where they can exercise their own options. On the rare occasions where my contact reveals a dangerous criminal, I have an obvious solution for their current lack of lodging, as well as maintaining the neighborhood's right to safety and peace of mind.

When confronted with a person who expresses suicidal, or even homicidal, intentions, or who is unable to care for their basic needs in any manner, I then am compelled to request a mental-health detention for their safety. Many times this is their first opportunity to have a potential mental illnesses diagnosed and start on a course of medication and therapy. At least, that's my hope.

Whatever the person's history, all police officers have a list of services we can recommend, and contacts which we can make, to help the individual. Our minimum training in San Francisco exceeds any police department in the country and many of us, myself included, have taken extensive courses in crisis intervention, mental illness recognition and homeless outreach. While others are discussing the issue, police officers are usually the first resource these people in need encounter. Don't hesitate to call us if you believe we can help. ■

SFPD Officer Michael Walsh lives and works in Glen Park.

Restaurant Review: Worth a Trek to Angkor Borei

Recently Glen Park has become a bona fide destination for foodies from the neighborhood and beyond. Now couples and groups can be seen walking through the village in their dressy casuals, alongside the locals in their flip-flops getting their forty bucks from the ATM.

by
Bonnee
Waldstein

Lest we become too insulated in our cozy restaurant cocoon, I recommend we venture out, less than a mile from Diamond and Bosworth streets, to a different world that does not (yet) exist in Glen Park. That world is Indochina, specifically Cambodia, at a little place called Angkor Borei on the quiet part of Mission Street (Angkor for the temple Angkor Wat; borei, meaning city in Cambodian).

While some Glen Parkers have frequented Angkor Borei for a long time, it is better known by the Bernal crowd. Angkor Borei has been family owned and operated for the past 20 years by Tom Prophan and Chinhan Yat. The two are so cheerful and friendly, they greet their regulars with a warm hug.

Look at Cambodia on a map and it's apparent what makes its cuisine so interesting. It carries influences from Thailand, Vietnam, China, India (curry) and France (from days of colonial domination).

Yat explains the essence of Cambodian cuisine—first, fresh vegetables, lightly cooked or raw; second, herbs and spices, the same as Thai but lighter—tamarind, basil, cilantro, cumin, garlic, turmeric, lime leaf and galanga (similar to ginger root), to name just a few. Then there are the dipping sauces, which layer yet another dimension onto the fascinat-

ing flavor mix.

The wide variety of ingredients combine to yield complex flavors that are nevertheless distinct within the dish. They are paired with the fresh vegetables and simply cooked meat and seafood and the intriguing sauces. In addition to white rice, a welcome option is brown rice, which is not a Cambodian tradition, but its plumpness and nutty flavor makes for a nourishing completeness to the meal.

Crispy spring roll appetizers (No. 1 on the menu, \$6.95, as are most appetizers) are a surprising departure from the usually greasy wraps and soggy vegetables of many restaurants. Here the wrapper is crisp and the vegetables inside are crunchy, a great way to start the meal. Likewise, the crispy Cambodian crepe (No. 9) is true to its name. Another choice is chicken salad (No. 8), which, again, is not what you'd expect. No fried noodles or iceberg lettuce, just lots of different vegetables and chicken, flavored with cilantro. Fresh spinach leaves (No. 7) are used to wrap a number of ingredients such as peanuts, lime, onion and ginger, which are then dipped in sauce and have a taste that is more than the sum of its parts. Sour soup (No. 12, \$8.75), with pineapple and winter melon, is another good starter.

Entrees, around \$9–\$12, run the gamut from beef, pork and chicken to seafood, vegetables and noodles. There are also vegetarian dishes featuring mock duck (made with saitan) and other inventions. Charbroiled pork slices (No. 30) are served with raw cucumbers and tomatoes, which are an amazing contrast of smoky flavor and fresh sensation. Slices of beef (No. 20) are simmered in yellow curry peanut sauce. Every category on the menu features a curry, a flavor that tends to dominate, whatever the dish. A favorite chicken dish is sautéed chicken (No. 35) with green beans, bell peppers, spices and spearmint. The seafood is excellent, particularly the pan-fried fish fillet (No. 49) served with an intensely flavorful garlic sauce. Ahmohk (No. 48) is an unusual specialty, a fish mousse served in a banana leaf basket. Another impressive presentation is the baked prawns in foil (No. 44), the foil being in the shape of a bird, positioned to peck into the dipping sauce, and accompanied by fresh cucumbers, celery and carrots.

No Cambodian beer is available (it's hard to get in California), but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



Chinhan Yat, co-proprietor.

Photo by Michael Waldstein

Glen Canyon Park Organizer Jean Conner Ends Her Column but Promises to Remain Active

On Nov. 3, 1973, two important events occurred that would change daily life in Glen Park for the better: BART began service through the eagerly awaited

Glen Park station, and Jean Conner moved to Sussex Street with her husband

Bruce, the well-known artist and filmmaker. BART's impact was immediate and widely cheered.

Jean's contributions to the neighborhood have been much lower key, but vital in their own way: she has been instrumental in maintaining and improving our natural treasure, Glen Canyon Park.

A lover of nature and a longtime participant in organizations including the Audubon Society, the Native Plant Society and the California Academy of Sciences, Jean has been a driving force with Friends of Glen Canyon Park for nearly 20 years.

At a 1988 meeting, she recalls, she spoke up: "People were always asking, 'How can we raise funds so we can pay for maintenance work in the

canyon?' and I said, 'We can do the work ourselves.' So they said, 'Great, you do it.'" She has been doing it ever since.

She recounted the story of the Friends' early work parties in the Fall 2007 issue of the *Glen Park News*. That column was her last. "In Glen Canyon Park with Jean Conner" had been a regular feature since 1994, providing not only information about the Friends and the park, but interesting insights into the canyon's flora and fauna.

With her column now ended, park aficionados nevertheless have one good way of learning from Jean about life in the canyon: Talk with her in person at one of the Friends' work parties, which are always listed in the *Glen Park News* "Community Calendar."

Friends President Richard Craib hopes to recruit a new canyon columnist for us in 2008. Meantime, the *News* staff is grateful to Jean for her years of dedication. ■



Jean Conner (center) with fellow volunteers Kathy Velykis and Richard Craib in the Friends of Glen Canyon Park booth at the 2004 Glen Park Festival.

Photo by Denis Wade



The Glen Park Merchants' Association's annual holiday billboard adorns the village. Think Local, Buy Local for the holidays. Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf

Merchants' Forum

It is my pleasure to introduce and welcome to the village two new venues.

After several years working in retail, Zoel Fages decided it was time to follow his bliss: Leave corporate America behind and open his own shop.

Perch, a new gift and home-accessory store, is scheduled to open in February at 654 Chenery St.

The focus will be on modern, vintage and repurposed products for all occasions. Look for that perfect something, for that hard-to-buy-for-someone-or-self item. In addition to a great product assortment, Fages is planning on providing the best customer service possible.

"When someone comes into Perch I want them to feel welcomed, comfortable and treated to the best customer service in town." Fages said. "Having grown up in retail, I have seen a decline in the personal service that once was. I want to bring that service back and give customers something to smile about."

So on your next visit to Glen Park make sure to stop by the shop and Perch awhile.

For something else to look forward to, or look through, in early 2008 we also will welcome Eyedentity Vision at 2786 Diamond St.

"My practice will utilize the latest in technology to provide quality comprehensive eye care. My focus is to promote vision wellness through in-depth education tailored to my patients' needs," said the proprietor, Dr. Carrie Lee, an optometrist and San Francisco native who was raised in the Sunset District

"Optometrists, in fact, are actually the gatekeepers to their patients' overall health, allowing conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, certain cancers, and impending stroke to be detected by an eye exam," Dr. Lee said.

Eyedentity Vision also will carry select eyewear lines, including Lafont, Kio Yamato, Mykita, Flair, and Ete. Frame collections will constantly be updated to provide the latest trends and styles. They also will offer safe and comfortable eyewear for children.

Dr. Lee wants you to know that "the eyes serve as the window to the body."

So enjoy the holidays and make sure to welcome the two newcomers to Glen Park in the new year. ■

Ric López, who owns Modernpast on Chenery Street, is president of the Glen Park Merchants' Association.

A Glimpse Beneath the Surface

One of a series of interesting things about the Glen Park neighborhood

At the bottom of all this is the Franciscan Formation. Once upon a time, millions of years ago—160 million years, to be exact—there was a trench offshore, much like the one off Monterey. It was slowly being filled with fine sediments from the deluges coming off the shore of the then-North American Plate. Imagine an elongated pan of scrambled eggs stretching from Santa Barbara to Eureka that was being slowly scooped up by an inverted long spatula.

by
Dolan
Eargle

The spatula moved inexorably eastward, forced by the expansion of the Pacific Plate. On the east, the North American Plate, suffering pressure from the bottom, resisted by rising. First, the Coast Range was pushed up from the egg mass, then even the bottom of the trough was pushed up and against this—and the sediments rose up, twisted and layered.

How do we know? Just look at the fantastic patterns layered down in the western cliffs of O’Shaughnessy Boulevard, or study the huge reddish rocks in the upper reaches of Glen Canyon. The sediments are of fine silicate (sandy) silt and are colored red from oxidized iron salts in the water. The occasional green rocks are from reduced (less oxygen) iron salts.

Eventually the rains found cracks in the rocks, widening them and draining to the sea, depositing their scrubblings from Twin Peaks, Diamond Heights, Sunnyside and Miraloma Park into Islais Creek and the Diamond valley as heavy red clay. Glen Park village and the lower canyon are underlain by these alluvial soils. But the thickness of these deposits varies—deepest at Kern Street (about 20 feet) to very thin layers of almost nothing on the slopes along Berkeley Street.

Glen Park and the whole Coast Range continue to rise at about one-half inch per year, but we seldom feel it. Fortunately, most of Glen Park is considered at lowest risk for earthquake damage, in that we are mostly on very solid Franciscan ground. ■

What all’s under our streets, anyway?

At the very bottom, as expected, is the sewer. But in Glen Park there are two parallel 5-foot pipes—Islais Creek, under Kern Street, and the sewer, under Wilder. The creek and the sewer/storm pipes have their own culverts, joined at Cayuga Street by the South Fork of underground Islais Creek, which flows all the way to the Islais Channel.

Water supplies. The City’s Hetch-Hetchy water supply is a network of interconnecting pipes that can be switched upon demand using a system of valves, although Glen Park’s supply usually comes from College Hill Reservoir (just above Glen Park’s St. John’s Church) or from the Twin Peaks Reservoir.

McLaren Park’s blue tank, and the University Mound Reservoir off Silver on University, supply the lower Excelsior district. Downtown’s main supply passes under Highway 280 direct from Crystal Springs reservoirs, running along Mission Street at Alemany. What we drink and what puts out our fires are usually the same in Glen Park. Hydrants are served by the City water system. The smaller white fire hydrants are for smaller fires; the rare “King Kong” hydrants, on a different set of pipes, are the high-pressure ones, useful for tall buildings and long distances.

Glen Park has another unusual feature—a fire department cistern. That brick circle in the pavement at Bosworth and Diamond is not an old streetcar turnaround—it demarcates a water storage cistern. In case an earthquake cuts off City water, we at least have our own reservoir for fire protection. The City’s cisterns are periodically automatically replenished by a “toilet-tank type” valve that senses low water.

Quickie 1: What do the white spray paint marks with arrows “USA” mean?

It’s an Underground Service Alert, showing direction of a service, not a patriotic graffito, to indicate something for an anticipated dig.



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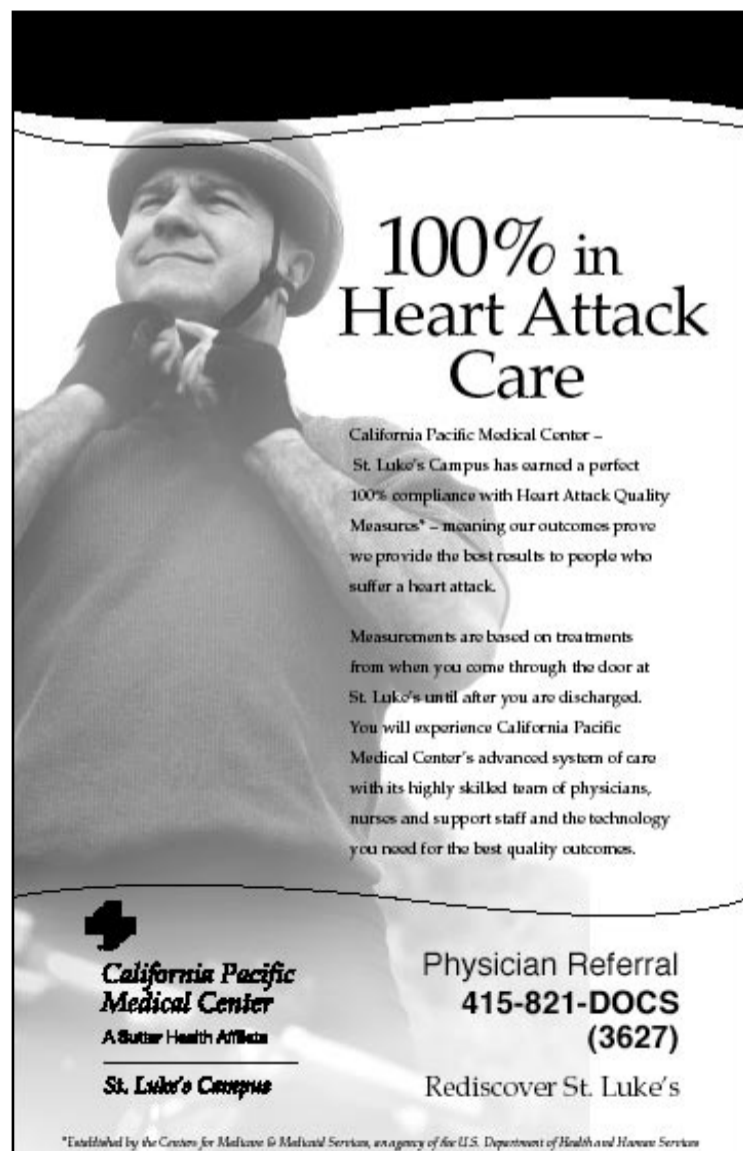
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Glen Park Schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

ers who are engaged and motivated,” said Grady, whose own granddaughter attended Glen Park.

Wendy Chisholm, president of the Sunnyside PTA, offered praise for the school where her daughter, now in second grade, was assigned: “The benefits of Sunnyside are that it’s a small neighborhood school, very diverse, and has a real family feel to it.” In addition, Chisholm said, the principal “has a goal of moving the school forward. Historically, the school was considered middle of the road. But the principal wants to make the school distinguished, and that’s worth a lot.”

Ellie Rossister, programs manager for the San Francisco chapter of Parents for Public Schools, agrees, and urges parents and guardians to keep an open mind during the application process: “Test scores are a good gauge for schools—as one standard. But I don’t think you should use them as a reason not to look at a school.”

Rossister has two children attending Miraloma. When one of her daughters started there five years ago, “it was under-enrolled. It was a school no one was interested in,” she said. A combination of parent involvement, staff commitment and an aim toward excellence helped create a better reputation. In addition, Miraloma is one of the few elementary schools in the city that boasts a gymnasium, cafeteria and auditorium.

One of Fairmount’s biggest selling points is its “two-way bilingual program,” which puts both native-English and native-Spanish speakers in the same classroom with the goal of getting students to learn both languages in a cross-cultural setting. Fairmount also is known for embracing the involvement of parents and the community.

There are myriad reasons to choose—or reject—a school, and for a lot of people, Rossister said, it often comes down to “an individual’s gut-level feeling.”

Rossister and others involved in San Francisco’s public schools offered several tips to help decide what schools to try to get into. Among them:

- Ask a lot of questions of the teachers and principals about such matters as expectations of family involvement, teaching philosophies and how they deal with the challenges of working in a diverse urban school district.
- Talk to other families.
- Tour the schools to see firsthand how the classrooms are set up and

whether the facilities—the bathrooms and playgrounds, for instance—are well maintained.

- Figure out what activities you envision for your child that the school may offer, such as extra art, dance or music instruction or a special language immersion program.

For parents willing to do the research, a mind-dizzying array of information is available on individual schools: number of students enrolled; number of students who applied; test scores; student and teacher attendance; the student suspension, expulsion and drop-out rate; class size; percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced-cost lunches; ethnic breakdown of student and teacher populations; number of students in special education; average age of staff; percentage of students proficient in English; percentage of staff with advanced degrees and extra credentials. The list goes on and on.

“The really important thing,” Rossister said, “is to keep an open mind and look beyond the myths.”

Glen Park and Sunnyside are also home to two well-regarded Catholic schools. The first is St. John’s Parish School, at 927 Chenery. This small, Catholic school offers a strong community, excellent academics and a very strong tech program, courtesy of its Principal, Kenneth Willers.

In Sunnyside, St. Finn Barr at 419 Hearst Ave. is committed to building independent thinkers, life-long learners who live Gospel values in the Catholic tradition.

Schools in or near Glen Park:

Fairmount Elementary
65 Chenery St.
372 students

Glen Park Elementary
151 Lippard Ave.
299 students

Miraloma Elementary
175 Omar Way
317 students

St. Finn Barr
419 Hearst Ave.
197 students

St. John’s Parish School
925 Chenery St.
247 students

Sunnyside Elementary
250 Foerster St.
271 students



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"When the offers came in we were astonished to receive \$331,000 over asking. We credit this excellent result in large part to the efforts you put into preparing and marketing the house." **PAUL & JUSTINE**

"I trusted your experience, and with pleasant surprise it paid off with \$20,000 over asking!!" **JANICE**

"Your advice about pricing the house and when to put in on the market. In addition to your diligent efforts really paid off. I was pleasantly surprised at the 12 offers and bid amounts \$100,000 over the asking." **JOHN**

"I highly recommend Howard for both his knowledge and professionalism. He worked harder for me than I had a right to expect from anyone, and I know that he will do the same for all his clientele." **JAMES**

"I couldn't have asked for a better coach to help me prepare my home for sale. Your marketing skills are outstanding and I believe that your effective exposure resulted in a strong competitive offer in less than 7 days." **TIM**

"Your pricing strategy and staging assistance created quite a buzz. We received 16 offers after only 5 days on the market." **JANICE & TED**

All up-to-date Glen Park sold prices are available at www.glenparkneighbors.com

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or visit www.howardreinstein.com

GPA News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

need to motivate more people to submit articles. It would help if members of the Board would take this responsibility." And, "Ruth [Gravanis] added that finding space for the *Perspective* staff to work is important. She would like to look forward to using their dining room for family life in the near future."

As I read through all these stories and records, I can only feel humble, but proud, that I am helping lead an association and a community that has been so well served by its members for all these years.

Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association.



From the Glen Park News of 1978, introducing some new business owners.

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 website at www.glenparkassociation.com

Other neighborhood lists include:

Ingleside Police Station Crime Report
To receive a copy of the Ingleside Station Newsletter please send an e-mail to: InglesideStationNewsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Glen Park Parents
Over 550 families in Glen Park and environs. Includes groups for new parents and parents-to-be. Moderated and spam-free.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/glenparkparents/>

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

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

Glen Park Dog Owners
gpdog-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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

Fairmount Heights Gay Neighbors
FHLGBT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Angkor Borei

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

there's Sing Ha, a mild Thai beer that goes well with the distinct flavors of the food. Another option is lemongrass tea. Dessert is not a big preoccupation at Angkor Borei. They usually have one or two choices of Mitchell's ice cream, and a fried banana, which they do to perfection.

With the freshness and diversity of colors and flavors, the food at Angkor

Borei feels like food you should be eating. And it's a restaurant that proves you don't need to spend a fortune or drive miles from Glen Park to enjoy a great tasting and unique meal, prepared and served by wonderful people.

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550-8417



Candle Blamed for Sunday Fire

A house fire started by a candle gutted the four-unit apartment building between ModernPast and The Park Salon on Chenery Street on Sunday, Dec. 9. More than six fire trucks and several police patrol cars answered the call, blocking off Chenery between Diamond and Castro streets and halting traffic on Diamond above Chenery as well.
Photo by Michael Waldstein

Real Estate in Glen Park

This past fall, we continued to see strong demand from buyers wanting to call Glen Park "home," and prices held steady. Most properties sold above asking price. Following are the 17 single-family homes and condos sold in the neighborhood since our previous issue.

by Vince Beaudet	Address	List Price	Sold Price
	1019 Bosworth	\$649,000	\$700,050
	183 Brompton	\$849,000	\$849,000
	195 Beacon	\$1,595,000	\$1,650,000
	56 Conrad	\$975,000	\$990,000
	161 Chenery	\$1,049,000	\$1,075,000
	2473 Diamond	\$1,289,000	\$1,300,000
	161 Fairmount	\$1,195,000	\$1,420,000
	23 Harry	\$995,000	\$1,117,000
	45 Lippard	\$799,000	\$863,000
	125 Moffit	\$799,000	\$840,000
	150 Randall	\$1,195,000	\$1,120,000
	207-A Randall	\$1,195,000	\$900,000
	279 Randall	\$1,325,000	\$1,326,000
	207 Randall	\$1,350,000	\$1,375,000
	228 Randall	\$1,495,000	\$1,465,000
	293 Surrey	\$799,000	\$800,000
	86 Whitney	\$1,079,000	\$1,100,000

Realtor Vince Beaudet works for Herth Real Estate. He can be reached at 861-5222 x333 or vincebeaudet@herth.com.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS:

Glen Park Festival, Glen Park Association, Glen Park Garden Club,
Glen Park Graffiti Watch, Canyon Market Advisory Board

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

San Francisco Apartment Association, San Francisco Small Property Owners Association,
San Francisco Association Realtors, National Association of Realtors

Working together with business partner, Suzanne Boyle, at HERTH, Vince has helped hundreds of buyers and sellers navigate the complex process of successfully completing a real estate transaction.

A 12-year resident of Glen Park and homeowner on Elk Street, Vince has gained valuable insight into what it takes to exceed his clients expectations!

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Community Calendar

Glen Park Association

Quarterly meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday in January, April, July and October at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Annual membership dues of just \$10 support the Association's important work on behalf of the neighborhood.

Next meeting: *Third* Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7:30 pm, St. John's School, 925 Chenery St.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Meetings and Plant Restoration Work Parties: Third Saturday of each month, 9 am–noon. Next dates: Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16.

Meet behind the Recreation Center. Tools, gloves and instruction provided. Learn about botany and ecology, exercise your green thumb, enjoy entertaining camaraderie or 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.

Glen Park Branch Library

Schedules of all library programs are available at the library, 2825 Diamond St. All programs are free.

Coming Events:

Infant/Toddler Lapsits: Tuesdays, 10:30 am. Stories, rhymes and finger-plays for the very young, ages birth–3, and their caregiver.

December dates: Dec. 11, 18.

Preschool Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:30 am. Stories and fun for children ages 3–5.

Preschool Videos: Monthly on Tuesdays, 11:15 am. Ages 3–5.

Next date: Dec. 18.

Family Storytime: Monthly on Wednesdays, 7 pm. Before-bed stories for kids of all ages.

Next date: Dec. 12.

Adult Book Discussions: One Wednesday each month, 6:30–7:30 pm. Join in discussing notable books. Each month's participants select titles for upcoming meetings. Next book: *Gilead: A Novel*, Dec. 19. See "Check it Out at the Library," page 14.

SFPD Community Forums

Third Tuesday of each month, 7 pm, Ingleside Police Station, John Young Way off San Jose Avenue. All residents are encouraged to participate in the informative monthly Community Relations Forum hosted by Capt. Denis O'Leary.

Drop in, meet our new captain and get acquainted with some of the other dedicated people keep our neighborhood safe. Meetings are subject to availability of the captain; to check, call the station at 404-4000.

Next dates: Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 19.

Kiki-Yo Events

Holiday Toy Donations: Dec. 1–23, drop off children's toys for the SF Firefighters' Toy Drive at the Kiki-Yo fitness studio, 605 Chenery St. near Castro. For drop-off times visit their web site, kiki-yo.com, or call 587-5454. See story on this page for details.

Community Hatha Yoga Classes:

Fridays, noon–1:15 pm, beginning Dec. 7. Teacher: Jennifer Chein. Suggested donation is \$10 but no one is turned away, and 50 percent of the donation goes to City Youth Now, which supports children in the juvenile court system (www.cityyouthnow.org/home.php).

Bird & Beckett Events

Bird & Beckett Books & Records continues to present a variety of free literary and musical events in its new, more spacious location at 653 Chenery St. (the former Glen Park library site). For latest information, check the web site, www.bird-beckett.com, or call proprietor Eric Whittington at 586-3733.

Coming Events:

Jazz in the Bookshop: Every Friday, 5:30–8 pm.

Three book groups meet each month at 7 pm; everyone is invited:

Bird & Beckett Book Club: 1st Wednesdays. A book is discussed each month; participants choose the next month's selection.

Eminent Authors' Birthdays: 2nd Tuesdays. Open reading; bring a libation and a literary bit to share.

Political Book Discussion Group: 3rd Thursdays. Current issues.

Open Mic Poetry: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:30 pm.

Always check with the bookstore for Special Events with local authors and personalities. More are being scheduled as things settle down following the big move.

Coyote Cinema

Wednesday, Dec. 12, Socha Cafe, Mission Street near Valencia. Free. Melissa Peabody's one-hour natural history film, "San Francisco—Still Wild at Heart," chronicles the return of coyotes to the city and celebrates the wildlife that thrives in our urban landscape.

A DVD is available at Bird and Beckett, 653 Chenery St., or from Producer/Director Peabody at 533-0349 or mpeabody@pacbell.net.

Parent Empowerment: Cultural Literacy

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7 pm, Glen Park Library Meeting Room, 2825 Diamond St. No charge. Dr. Diana Kipping presents a class on "What Literate Americans Know," based on the 1987 book Cultural Literacy. This is the first in a series of sessions. ■



Young patrons peruse the selections at the new Glen Park Library.

Photo by Paula Levine

San Francisco Services

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