In 1999 gas cost $1.22 a gallon, everyone was worried about the Y2K bug and work was supposed to start on the Sunnyside Conservatory.

Fast forward a decade: Planning for the grand opening of the refurbished conservatory is already under way, even though the rebuilding and re-landscaping won’t be finished until the fall.

The tumbledown conservatory and its gardens have been a San Francisco historic landmark since 1975. It was taken over by the Recreation and Park Department in 1980. But a specific plan for the site on Monterey Boulevard between Baden and Congo streets got going only about a decade ago.

The two-story octagonal conservatory was built in the 1890s by a British transplant named W.A. Merralls, who had made his fortune inventing underground systems, including a gas-powered mining machine and the cooling system for New York City’s subway system. But during the decades after his death, the site suffered neglect.

Residents of the Sunnyside neighborhood lobbied to have the City take over the property, and then lobbied some more to help push along the reconstruction—“getting it on the civic radar,” said Stacy Garfinkel, one of the Friends of the Sunnyside Conservatory activists who have nurtured the $4 million project each step of the way. The money has been drawn from City bond issues to finance parks and open space.

Even before BCCI Construction Co. began work in December 2008, the Friends helped organize a range of activities such as art classes, Halloween pumpkin-carving contests and concerts...

continued on page 4
How many of you have heard of Fulton, Maryland? We hadn’t at the Glen Park News—until we looked at the return address on a check that recently came our way.

Fulton, located a little more than 2,800 miles from the heart of the Glen Park village, is home base of the Oak Creek Foundation, a family charity that sent us a $1,000 grant.

“Did you apply for a grant?” That was the question that made the rounds in the small circle of Glen Park News editors. The same answer kept coming back: “No.”

Apparently, the Oak Creek Foundation found us. Wow. We didn’t know our quarterly publication made it much past Glen Park proper, Ingleside police station and City Hall.

Mary Acker, spokeswoman for the organization, offered a vital clue: One of the directors of the foundation lives in San Francisco. We weren’t even told whether the person lives in Glen Park; the director wishes to remain anonymous. But if you’re reading this Mr. or Ms. Patron, we’d like you to know that we appreciate the contribution.

Again, though, why us? Acker said the mission of the foundation is to give “organizations that [they] feel better the world.”

Another wow. We’re proud of the Glen Park News, and see it as an important resource for the neighborhood. With every issue we try to provide readers with the latest news not only about the goings-on in Glen Park, but also about the people and institutions that make the neighborhood one of San Francisco’s true treasures.

What we see, hear and feel when we walk down Laidley Street, or walk our dog in the canyon, or wait for a bus on Diamond Street or stand in line at Tyger’s on a Sunday morning helps set the tone of how we view the world and what we want.

Safe and clean streets, friendly neighbors, useful and interesting shops, good eats, an eclectic mix of architecture, diversity in population and a mix of urban and nature—all these come together in Glen Park to give us ample reason to boast about the neighborhood, and to demand better when we fall short.

Given all that, the Glen Park News now has $1,000 that we didn’t have before, and we need to decide how best to spend it to—as Acker put it—better the world.

We don’t have an answer yet. Sponsored by the Glen Park Association and supported by advertising revenue, we’re an all-volunteer publication, relying on the good will of our reporters, columnists, photographers, advertising representative, layout guru, delivery crew and editors.

Should we expand our circulation area into adjoining neighborhoods and use the money to print more papers? Perhaps upgrade our newsprint paper? Or bank the money and use it later if the economy worsens and we really need it?

We have our thinking caps on. If you have a suggestion, let us know. We’ll let you know how we decide to use our unexpected windfall for the benefit of the paper and our readers—to better our corner of the world. For now, the Glen Park News volunteer staff will continue to smile at our good fortune, and thank our anonymous benefactor.

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

GPA Board of Directors and Officers for 2007

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letter to the editor

On Aug. 29, 2008, Paul Park, the owner of Buddies Market, was brutally attacked and one of his employees kidnapped and injured in a robbery at his family’s store. The assault shocked and angered the community. In the weeks and months afterwards that horrific event caused a cascade of events that changed our neighborhood in many positive ways. More than 500 neighbors filled St. John’s auditorium to bear police discuss the case and crime issues in general. A fund for the Parks organized by the Glen Park Merchants Association raised over $14,000. Many more neighbors joined the Glen Park Association. A group of 20 businesses and neighbors hired the Patrol Specials to walk the neighborhood (see page 8). An ever-changing group signed up to hang out at the store around closing until everyone got home safely. And Paul Park has slowly healed from his extensive injuries.

Dear Neighbors and Merchants,

We want to express our deepest appreciation for all the personal assistance, warm wishes and prayers, and many contributions not only of your precious time, thoughtful gifts and lovely flowers, but also for your more than generous donations given to help our family. Because of your prayers and support, Paul is recovering more quickly than even the doctors expected. Love has a way of making miracles happen!

We are so proud and grateful to have you as our friends and neighbors. Some of the many blessings we have received during the past three months include new friendships with helpful neighbors such as Ann, Ron, Charles, Ricardo, Lisa, Dave, Karen and a multitude of others whom we hold especially close to our hearts.

We also want to acknowledge the loyalty and encouragement of our many regular customers who keep checking on us and supporting us with their continuing business.

Finally, we wish to thank all of our merchant friends in Glen Park, and particularly thank Janet and Richard of Canyon Market, Kirklan Tabor of KiKi Yo and Ric Lopez of Modern Past, for their continuing and special support.

We look forward to many more years serving our wonderful Glen Park community.

Yours sincerely,
Jennie and Paul Park
Buddies Super Market
696 Chenery Street

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glen park association news

“Michael, you’re really interested in Glen Park? Would you like to be an officer of the association?” One day about eight years ago, I saw a Glen Park Association meeting flyer, with an agenda item to be discussed that seemed one-sided. I called up the then-president, Zoanne Nordstrom, and asked if I could speak on the matter.

Zoanne cordially agreed, then immediately added an offer I could not refuse. So, next thing, I was vice-president, helping Zoanne and others work with City planning, BART, public works, the police traffic division, recreation and park, and an alphabet of departments on all the problems, questions and ideas in the neighborhood. I am writing this column in my fifth year as president of the Glen Park Association, and in my eighth year since joining the board of directors.

My message this month is: “Neighbors, you’re really interested in Glen Park? Would you like to be a GPA officer [committee chair] [committee member]?”

There’s a lot going on in the neighborhood. On the list: The Glen Park Community Plan Environmental Impact Report and BART Station Area Transportation Study; potential development of the BART parking lot; the San Francisco General Plan Housing Element EIR; a study of employee shuttle buses in the neighborhood; budget constraints for park programs and libraries; change in leadership at the San Francisco Police Department; and more. We on the board probably get one or two e-mails a week from City staff or residents asking for neighborhood input or help.

Recently, a Mizpah Street resident, Lewison Lem, volunteered to help on transportation issues. Lewison is now looking at the employee shuttles study with the San Francisco County Transportation Authority. Richard Crab works hard keeping an eye on Glen Canyon Park. Miriam Moss heads the Glen Park Advisory Board, raising money for recreation programs. GPA recently made a $700 contribution to the Advisory Board for the Recreation Center.

But we have slots to fill: Recording Secretary, to keep minutes at board and membership meetings; Corresponding Secretary, now mostly an electronic role; a committee chair for Health and Environment; more members for the Zoning and Planning Committee and the Transportation Committee. These do have defined roles, but all of us on the board work as a team, bring a range of opinions and ideas, and look forward to more voices and opinions.

Please e-mail me at president@glenparkassociation.org or call me at 337-9894.

Michael Rice is president of the Glen Park Association.
Room and a preparation area for catered events, and new landscaping will include lights and fencing will be installed.

Conservatory
Continued from Page 1

certs, “trying to bring it alive,” Garfinkel said. The volunteers held clean-up days, removed graffiti and maintained the landscaping. They planted a garden of butterfly-attracting plants on a small strip of City-owned land across Joost Avenue from the conservatory’s rear entrance.

According to Paulina Araica, the Rec and Park project director, new construction includes a wheelchair-accessible ramp as well as new stairs and a plaza. The conservatory will be repaired and brought up to code standards, including seismic ones, and new lights and fencing will be installed.

There will be an irrigation system, and new landscaping will include drought-tolerant plants. A separate structure connected to the conservatory by a breezeway will get a new restroom and a preparation area for catered affairs.

There will be new windows, a new roof, new paint and new gutters. Even the finial at the center of the roof will be reinstalled, to give the up-to-date building the same look it had during the Victorian era.

One palm tree was removed because of extensive decay in its trunk, but those that remain include a rare coquito palm. Araica said that any bushes removed as a result of the current work are being replanted in other City parks.

Garfinkel pledges that the Friends of the Sunnyside Conservatory won’t rest on its laurels when the upgraded park officially reopens. They have been “brain-storming” on ways to increase usage. The park is a “unique jewel … a public neighborhood gathering space,” she said.

And, she added, when they do hold that grand opening, everyone from Glen Park is invited.

Food, Fairytales and Fun

This year on Martin Luther King Day, then-President-elect Obama called Americans to a Day of Service. Across the country, tens of thousands of people took up the challenge. Here in Glen Park, two moms, a horde of kids and a lot of neighbors did their own part to honor Dr. King’s legacy.

The Children’s Book and Food Drive was held Jan. 19 in front of the Glen Park Library. Several hundred people stopped by, resulting in 1,379 pounds of food collected for the San Francisco Food Bank and well over 3,000 books to be donated to the Children’s Book Project.

“We were told that the number of book donations was the largest they have ever received!” said Monique Alonso, who together with Lexi Olian organized the event. They had help from their kids, Julian and Carolina Alonso and Elias Mathus, as well as from Glen Park locals Van Beck, her daughter Georgia, and Howard Rosenfield.

Donors and volunteers were treated to fresh coffee and hot chocolate donated by the Tarlows at Canyon Market.
City’s Own Version of Law and Order

One day after that other inauguration in January, the Glen Park Association had one of its own—refreshingly, it was nomination, campaign, election and inauguration condensed into around 15 minutes at the beginning of the quarterly GPA meeting. The current officers used the advantage of incumbency (aided by a lack of opponents) to sweep into office, yet again, in a landslide.

There was no inaugural ball, but in an instance of great timing, Jennie Park of Buddies Market came with two delicious sheet cakes. She and Paul Park wanted to thank the Glen Park community for all their help and support in the aftermath of the attack on Paul in the market last September.

When the meeting progressed to its main topic, criminal justice in San Francisco, representatives of the District Attorney’s Office gave a talk on some of the mechanics and issues. There was opportunity for those present to ask questions and bring up issues, which they did. The tone was more inquiring than confrontational, perhaps because there had been no recent, galvanizing major crime in Glen Park.

Assistant D.A. John Ullohm began with the very basics, the two components of the criminal justice system: First, the police, who arrest, investigate, and protect public safety; second, the district attorney, who decides whether to charge, pursue and prosecute the case.

The police have a lower standard of proof to make an arrest—they need only the belief that a person probably committed the crime. The D.A. needs to be able to show proof in court beyond a reasonable doubt. This difference often causes a disconnect between what people observe in police activity and what they read in the newspapers. The police with the promise to appear later or to go to court to testify if needed.

Some crimes automatically rate 11 points—robbery, rape, felony assault, stabbing, shooting, gang activity, and recidivism. Lower points are assessed for lesser crimes, and mitigating factors may lower the points, such as family support, first-time offense and school attendance. Those who receive low points may be released to home detention with the promise to appear later at the Youth Guidance Center for disposition. A juvenile might have two or three cases pending. In the meantime, he or she may commit further crimes. But those with 11 points are put into custody immediately.

A middle ground accounts for 800—900 cases per year. These youths are referred to the Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC), which seeks alternatives to incarceration; these juveniles may or may not be prosecuted.

Violent cases must go to the D.A. within two days and undergo two days of sociological investigation, after which the case goes to the prosecuting D.A.

At the GPA meeting, the assistant D.A.’s acknowledged that people are frustrated with the limitations of the criminal justice system. They noted that the source of crime is socioeconomic and the system doesn’t have the power to change any of those circumstances—lack of training, unemployment, inadequate home environment. They asked the community to be patient with the system, and to be willing to go to court and testify if needed.

To follow up on a particular crime, it is better to contact the police department, which has greater freedom to share information than the District Attorney. You can ask the D.A. whether the case is in progress, but if it is they can’t release information about an ongoing investigation.
The name came to Max out of nowhere, even before they found the right location for their restaurant. Lorella was unconvinced that his idea sent the right message. But the name grew on her, and this April 9 the convivial La Ciccia at 30th and Church streets celebrates its third anniversary.

Max is Massimiliano Conti, the chef. His wife Lorella Degan is the gracious front-of-the-house presence at the only Sardinian restaurant in the Bay Area, one of only a handful anywhere in America.

La Ciccia was designed to be an informal neighborhood place where people “enjoy food and company and good wine,” Lorella says. “In Italy there are a ton of places like that, where people can literally eat like they are in somebody’s home.”

Well, not exactly like most people’s homes. But the fresh seafood dishes, unusual pastas and imported cheeses reflect the bounty of the Italian island where Max grew up among women: his widowed mother—“a very good cook,” his grandmother, an aunt and a sister. Lorella is from the north, born in Venice and reared in Padua.

Lorella began working at 18 at a hotel on Italy’s Lake Garda, then moved to London to study English and later to Paris to study French, supporting herself by working at hotels or restaurants. She met Max on a cruise ship, where she was the wine steward and he was a waiter.

Max had attended a hotel school in Sardinia, concentrating on food and wine. He moved on to managing restaurants in the Italian wine region of Montepulciano. When he took a job as a sommelier in Washington, D.C., he invited Lorella to come visit him. They got married across the Potomac River in Arlington, Va.

They loved living in Washington, but hated the weather, so they decided to check out San Francisco. Eventually Max worked for a distributor of high-end Italian wines and Lorella was concierge at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. They say they did not consider working together until they decided to start a restaurant. “Working and living together can be very challenging sometimes,” Max says.

But eventually the dream took hold. Max had quit his job and gone back to Sardinia for two months to “recharge himself” and help with the olive harvest. While he was there, he got a couple of job offers. When he came back to California, the couple gave themselves two months to find a spot for their restaurant.

Otherwise, Lorella says, they were going to leave America permanently. They thought, “If it doesn’t work, we’ll move on to something else,” Lorella says. “We have reinvented ourselves a few times already.”

Their search turned up a recently closed pizza-Greek restaurant site at the northern edge of Glen Park. They opened less than two months after they signed the lease. While they and a couple of friends were painting and cleaning, Lorella recalls, people would come to the door and ask when they were opening and what kind of food they planned to serve.

Max says he had been writing fantasy menus since he was 20 years old. But when he drew up a proposed “modern Italian” bill of fare, Lorella called it “not inspiring.” She recalls telling him, “This is not really you”—and suggested that he should focus on the dishes he cooked at home for her.

They settled on all-Sardinian food, and Max decided to write the menu in the unfamiliar Sardinian dialect (with English translations) and an Italian wine list with numerous Sardinian offerings.

La Ciccia was a hit almost immediately, drawing on both Glen Park and Noe Valley for repeat customers. “It just took off on its own,” Lorella says. “It is remarkable how people here totally embraced what we do.”

The menu is seasonal, though certain dishes remain constant. For example, the vegetable used in one distinctive spaghetti preparation changes, but the sprinkling of bottarga (dried fish roe) remains the same. They shop locally for fruit, vegetables and fish, but many of the basic foodstuffs Max uses in the kitchen—olive oil, cheeses, dried
Glen Park Braces for Funding Cuts

San Francisco's grim fiscal outlook—with a projected deficit nearing $600 million over the next year and a half—is expected to hit neighborhood services in Glen Park.

"As we move into summer, people are going to see a diminution of service quality," said Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who represents Glen Park.

Reductions in everything from social services and public health to recreation programs are on the table. There’s been talk of delaying new police academy classes, and Muni riders may experience more missed runs.

Although Mayor Gavin Newsom has until June 1 to submit his proposed budget to the Board of Supervisors for the new fiscal year that starts July 1, he already has started making cuts midyear. One of the most noticeable to city residents was the decision by the Department of Public Works to pare back weekly street cleaning to twice a month throughout much of the city, Glen Park included.

Now, the hours at the Glen Canyon Park recreation center may be cut.

Under the proposal presented by Recreation and Park Department officials, the rec center, now open seven days a week, would be closed Mondays. Morning hours would be wiped out on the weekdays it is open. The gym would be open 1 p.m.–10 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; currently, the facility is open 9 a.m.–10 p.m.

"Everyone’s wondering, what about the tiny-tot classes?" said Miriam Moss, president of the Glen Park Advisory Council, which serves as the liaison between the neighborhood and City officials. She said City officials suggested that the tiny-tot program could be shifted to the afternoons. But that, noted Moss, could be difficult for families whose young ones take afternoon naps.

On Saturdays, the rec center would be open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. under the proposal. As is now the case, Sundays would be reserved for league play.

Recreation centers and clubhouses in adjoining neighborhoods also would be affected under the proposed cost-cutting measures, Moss reported. Hours would be reduced at Sunnyside and Miraloma.

"The City is getting stretched thin," said Dufty, who serves on the Board of Supervisors budget committee.

He said City Hall officials are looking at a share-the-pain approach to close the projected shortfall—tax and fee hikes, City employee givebacks and service reductions.

Budget negotiations already are under way, but there’s still plenty of time for residents to weigh in on the proposals and make their voices heard.

"I want to hear from people," Dufty said.

Supervisor Dufty can be reached at 554-6968, or bevan.dufty@sfgov.org. Contact Mayor Newsom at 554-6141 or gavin.newsom@sfgov.org.

La Ciccia

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Pasta—come from Sardinia to maintain traditional tastes.

Choices have evolved, with some things disappearing altogether and others being varied with, say, a different sauce. Occasionally customers have demanded that dropped items—the octopus in tomato sauce, for one—be reinstated.

Like everyone these days, Max and Lorella worry about the economy. But the dinner reservations keep coming and the prices have stayed pretty much the same since they opened.

Max says he realized that the focus on one cuisine would not appeal to everybody, but he has stayed fast with his island fare: "We knew from the beginning that it wasn't going to be easy. For me, the worst thing that can happen to a restaurant is when everyone likes it. When at the same time everybody likes it, you're not keeping your identity anymore, because you're forcing yourself to other peoples' taste."

And the name that came to him out of the blue, the one Lorella wasn't sure about?

La Ciccia means "the plump girl" in Italian. But Max says it has other connotations—contentment, prosperity. And one more thing, he adds: "I like meat, and La Ciccia is meat."
A group of 20 Glen Park neighbors and merchants have contracted with the San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officers Association to hire a patrol officer five times a week. The officer, Cal Wiley, will be walking the neighborhood five late afternoons or evenings a week on a random basis, the organizers say.

Patrol Special officers are independent contractors who wear uniforms and conduct armed patrols. They are appointed by the Police Commission and vetted by the SFPD, but are not members of the Police Department.

The Examiner reported last fall that the security force, founded during the Gold Rush, had 400 officers during the 1970s but had dwindled to about two dozen.

The Glen Park effort is being spearheaded by the Concerned Cherry Neighbors and Friends. They hope more individuals will join them—and help share the cost.

For more information, some merchants have yellow brochures about the program, or you can go to http://romantasy.com/SF/PatrolSpecialInformation.html.
Fast Passes are Coming to Canyon Market—Slowly

Canyon Market has been approved by Muni to sell Fast Passes. Co-owner Richard Tarlov began working on this last fall. In mid-February a Muni spokesman told the Glen Park News informally that the process was not quite complete—Tarlov hadn’t yet jumped through the final hoop needed before passes actually go on sale. Soon, everyone hopes.

Eric Whittington, who formerly sold Fast Passes at Bird & Beckett Books and knows a thing or two about the economics of running a neighborhood business, pointed out that selling the passes is one more service Canyon Market can provide for the neighborhood, but certainly not a profitable one: “It’s mostly a money-losing proposition. So if you get your Fast Pass at Canyon Market, at least buy the occasional sandwich or loaf of bread! And by all means, pay in cash—credit card companies take a percentage of every card transaction, far exceeding the 25 cents Muni pays the Fast Pass vendor to sell a $45 pass.”

Shuttles at BART – Voice Your Thoughts

The Glen Park BART station is a major hub of transit activity, and not all of it is public transit. Several private shuttle busses for local companies use it as a pick-up and drop-off point. Is that good or bad? The buses are meant to fill public transit service gaps but they can also cause congestion.

The San Francisco County Transportation Authority is conducting a study that will investigate the attributes and nature of shuttle services within San Francisco. They want to know who is being served, who is contracting and what service gaps are being addressed by shuttles. What are the benefits and impacts of shuttles? What is a reasonable regulatory framework for shuttle management, as these services continue to grow?

The Authority is asking Glen Park residents to take a few minutes to complete its online survey at www.sfcta.org/shuttlesurvey2009.

We Get the News Out

Each quarter, about a month and a half before the Glen Park News hits your doorstep, our all-volunteer staff starts to work.

First, Nora Dowley, our ad person, makes sure the advertising that pays most of the cost of the News is received and paid for.

Then editors Beth Weise and Rachel Gordon assign stories. Our regular reporters, Gail Bensinger, Dolan Eargle, Ashley Waldstein, and works Photoshop magic to make it all look good on cheap newsprint.

Our layout guru Mary Mottola spends more late nights than she should making everything fit.

Finally, distribution supervisor Grace Clark picks up 3,500 or so copies from our printer, Howard Quinn, and takes them to her two dozen delivery volunteers, who then walk their routes and get copies of the paper to you, about two weeks before each quarterly Glen Park Association meeting.

Occasionally we gather to celebrate and honor the tireless work of these volunteers, and to let them all get to know each other. This picture, taken on a balmy day in January, features most of the folks who helped put this issue of the paper in your hands.

If you see them on the street, say hi—they’re your News staff.
Volunteer Spirit on Penny Lane

If you plant it, people will come.
And come they did over six days last fall and several days this year.

Some came by automobile, dropping down from Diamond Heights, or walked, climbing from the village floor, past Canyon and Buddies markets. Others came from farther away: Chris Word lives in Noe Valley, Shawn Cae in Bernal Heights.

Debolina Dutta came from Joost Street, where she and her husband recently moved. “Jason and I are excited about our new neighborhood,” said Dutta, a high school science teacher, eager to volunteer on the path she has come to know as Penny Lane.

Mostly they came from nearby Surrey, Sussex and Diamond streets, as Jody Rosen, Gretchen LeBuhn, David Angel and Ally, his 5-year old daughter, did.

Together, numbering in the dozens, they assembled along Penny Lane, one of the best-kept secrets in San Francisco, a back-road byway, a narrow alley of gravel, rocks and pebbles only a stone’s throw from Interstate 280.

They came to work behind a century’s worth of Glen Park houses, carrying shovels, rakes and garden hoses, bringing their children, their dogs and their commitment to beautify one of the city’s urban treasures. Penny Lane began as a carriage path when horses and buggies were more common than streetcars.

“We have a good thing going here,” said volunteer Julie Whitcomb, a four-year Surrey Street resident, as she wrestled last October with a 50-pound plastic bag filled with shrubbery trimmings and ivy vines, an injured left wrist not deterring her from lending a hand that would eventually help fill 90 such debris sacks.

What implements they didn’t bring themselves were provided by the Department of Public Works and Friends of the Urban Forest—pick axes, rakes, loppers, hedge shears, 15-inch tool box saws, refuse bags and gardening gloves.

Penny Lane is tucked away among Queen Anne houses and haloed by the surrounding folds of hills that early 20th Century Glen Park boosters once described as “a veritable Switzerland.”

Whitcomb and her neighbors labored along the sequestered enclave, a 500-foot-long swath of neighborhood real estate that comprises a weathered, unpaved easement off Diamond Street between Sussex and Surrey streets.

Altogether, they planted 80 plants, each carefully covered with mulch and compost, each surrounded by a sculpted berm—earthen levees to ensure that winter rainwater will soak in.

Hugo Medina came to help these urban rustics. Owner of Green Grows the Garden at McAllister and Steiner streets, Medina favors a blue sweat shirt, faded Levis and a straw Cesar Chavez farm-laborer’s hat. Work gloves peek from his hip pocket and pruning clippers hug his belt. Sun-tanned, he looks every inch a man who works with earth and plants as he pads on cushioned work shoes from one freshly excavated hole to the next: “Come spring,” he said about the hidden path that evokes a sylvan serenity, “these folks will have added color and vegetation. Shrubs and plants will arch over fences, creating a little paradise, their own secret garden.”

Julian Gross, a three-year Sussex Street resident, echoed Medina. Looking at his 3-year old daughter, he said, “Kate and her friends play regularly here without fear of cars.” Accessible to cars only from Diamond Street, the block-long lane serves a few garages but has little vehicle
Block by Block, PG&E Replaces Pipes

No doubt you have all been struck by the presence of the orange and white sawhorses of PG&E around town—and the parking they displace. Most prominently in our neighborhood of late they’ve been slowly making their way down Chenery, from the Park to the Village.

They’re there because PG&E’s 1910-era iron gas lines are aging and it’s time for something new. In their place, plastic (actually PVC or polyvinyl chloride) gas pipes are being buried. I’m not sure the new ones will last as long the old ones, but who’s to know? They’re taking this project one or two blocks at a time, so as not to disturb too much of our traffic and parking patterns. (No smiles, please.) Other blocks in Glen Park have already been retrofitted.

Unlike other service pipeline installations, this dig is special. First, a surveyor goes down the block locating other lines into homes, marking them AT&T, PG&E or USA (Unspecified Service Access, generally cable TV lines).

Then a slot is cut through the pavement in toward each home. The new pipe is installed with a thing called the “Ditch Witch”—brought in every day from afar. It bores holes laterally, not straight down like an oil well. On the tip of the drill bit there is a transducer that lets the guide person above (on the pavement, holding a receiver) know where it is. If you hang around awhile, you can watch the guys “reading” the concrete with them.

Meanwhile, the operator back at the wellhead can then instruct the drill bit to go up, down, right, left. As the hole is drilled, new pipe from a coil is attached at the wellhead. The new pipe is then pierced by a crew at each home and service is restored. The street is resurfaced—eventually—as a reward.

The new gas lines are high pressure, which necessitates a new gas meter at each house. Because of the high pressure, the new meters must either be placed outside or be extremely well ventilated. 

Another perk is that the new meters are so-called “Smart Meters.” Once PG&E gets things up and running, they will be able to read the gas meters remotely via a wireless system. No more meter readers. The new meters are also supposed to allow for differential pricing, so at some point in the future you may be charged a lower price for gas you use during non-peak times.

While the PG&E crews are inside, they’re also swapping out old electric meters for new smart electric meters. These aren’t wireless, they just send a signal back down the wire to PG&E. Again, no meter readers. And again, eventually, differential pricing. And an easier hookup if you get solar.

Volunteers are needed for the annual neighborhood street fair scheduled for Sunday April 26, 2009, from 10 to 4:30.

As in prior years, the festival will provide a great day of entertainment and fun. Local artists and craftspeople will be selling handmade items such as jewelry, handspun yarn, greeting cards, pottery, children and adult apparel, sculptures and photographs. Several community organizations and neighborhood schools will also be in attendance.

Bring the kids on down! To entertain the little ones, local residents will provide face-painting and balloon sculptures. An engine from our local Diamond Heights fire station will be on hand for climb-aboard fun. There will even be a bouncy house!

But adults aren’t being left out. As always, there will be live music throughout the day, delicious food and a beer & wine garden. This year’s musical line-up includes the Jeffrey Gaeto Jazz Quartet, solo artist Brother Dan Palmer, powerpop quintet Lit by Lightening, and amazing 8-year old solo percussionist Lars Laperal. Mestizo will round out the day.

Proceeds from the festival are donated to children’s programs based in Glen Park. Towards this end, the festival features a fundraising raffle. The prize list grows daily, and includes something for everyone—from gourmet dinners to yummy desserts, museums for all tastes, thrill rides to a visit with the animals. Tickets will be available to purchase in advance at: Eye-vinity Vision (2786 Diamond Street), Perch (645 Chenery Street) and Glen Park Dental (590 Bosworth Street).

The festival committee needs help to make this wonderful day possible. Volunteers are needed for 2-hour shifts throughout the day. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the festival committee at 835-2112. More information is also available on their website at www.glenparkfestival.com.

See you in April.
Henry Irvin Tribute

The jazz notes floated across the neighborhood stage on Jan. 4, so clearly they might have been heard at Yoshi's in the East Bay, or perhaps even at the Blue Note in Manhattan's West Village.

It was at Bird & Beckett, however, where this music played, as 20 musicians gathered to pay their respects to San Francisco jazz guitarist Henry Irvin, who died Nov. 30 at the age of 72.

Bird and Beckett had provided the Henry Irvin Quintet a permanent home since 2003, and Irvin performed there each month before a chorus of fans. Before succumbing to pulmonary fibrosis, Irvin needed an electric cart to get around and was burdened with an oxygen tank. He performed a final August gig at the popular Chenery Street jazz venue.

“IT says something about him,” said Bird and Beckett's Nick Whittington, “that Henry picked up and played under those conditions.”

Marianne Addington, who played piano at the January afternoon celebration, chimed in: “Henry was relentless, willing to sacrifice for his art.”

Jimmy Ryan, who played drums in the Irvin Quintet, also sang his former colleague's praises: “Henry had heart.” Ryan said, before handing his sticks to drummer Bill Maginnis, who stepped on stage to pay tribute to a fellow musician who was a composer, teacher and mentor. Clearly no one in the audience, which numbered nearly 100 music lovers, found any reason to disagree with Ryan, who fronts his own Bird and Beckett ensemble.

Squeezed together in Bird and Beckett as tightly as the paperbacks on owner Eric Whittington's bookshelves, jazz aficionados listened to vocalist Dorothy Lefkovits salute Irvin with her rendition of “It Had to Be You.”

Earlier, after harmonizing “What a Difference a Day Makes,” Lefkovits, who met Irvin in October 1989 and had been a satiny-voiced member of his quintet ever since, told listeners that her entire world and the Bay Area's was about to be shaken up that fall.

“There was a big earthquake two days later. It was like that with Henry from then on,” she said of Irvin, known for the seismic tinkering of his sound.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE
on patrol in glen park

My dad was a very wise man, a fact not quite so evident to me during his life, and an opinion not likely to have crossed my mind, let alone my lips, when I was a young man who thought I had all the answers.

Dad formed a habit of quietly listening, not venturing into the fray of a discussion while his brilliant progeny held forth with all the self-righteous bombast one can only exhibit while young, or as a member of the Board of Supervisors. I used to think he was disinterested until he would weigh in with a crystallized, minimalist summation that would make the rest of us wish we had kept our big mouths shut. Living through the Great Depression, serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II, working two jobs and raising four children lends perspective.

I didn’t really learn to appreciate his tacit wisdom until he was gone and I was approaching the age at which I had considered him old. Now his simple, humble life lessons are my guide. Sometimes I follow his path and sometimes I follow my own. The decisions I craft are mine. The tools with which I smooth the edges, polish the surface and work to make my life plumb are all his.

Among his many pragmatic approaches to life, Joe Walsh subscribed to one very important credo: “Don’t sit by the side of the pool if you don’t want to get splashed.” This was my dad’s response when one of us would complain about a choice we regretted, or when a curveball was thrown when we were sitting on straight fastball.

“You’re wet now,” he’d say, “but you’ll dry off.” We learned to live with our decisions and not let the actions of others dictate our approaches to life. “Tell ‘em to jump up a rope,” was my dad’s favorite response to our complaints of peer pressure for not having the latest of everything.

Here in Glen Park we have all made the choice to sit by the side of the pool. And sometimes we get splashed. The compact charm of San Francisco lends itself to the reality that we are never far from the social elements that compel some people to victimize others. The conditions under which those who make the wrong choices live are generations old and will take at least as long to abolish.

The question today is not how do we stay dry when splashed, but, rather, how do we come up with a better system of passing out the towels? Those of us in the patrol level of the Police Department are charged with the task, while those at the command staff and commission levels try to remember what their mission is and to whom they answer.

They answer to you and me. Not to the politicians, nor to the myriad advocates of all stripes and not to the media. They answer to all the people who expect a reasonable level of public safety and an aggressive, visible and continued response when that safety is compromised.

Within the last year, Glen Park has experienced several criminal incidents not in keeping with our neighborhood.

Capt. Denis O’Leary, the commanding officer of Ingleside Station, which has jurisdiction over Glen Park, has cobbled together strategies that have been creative in their conception and effective in their execution. Robberies have gone down, if not diminished. Graffiti remains a problem, but I can tell you that two high-profile arrests, along with the parole monitoring of one felonious street vandal, have lessened the impact these criminals have had on Glen Park.

Effective leadership of this department is crucial to the path San Francisco needs to take to address this multi-generational crime phenomenon in the next five to 10 years. Chief Heather Fong is expected to retire by this summer. The Police Commission is scheduling meetings throughout the city to hear public comment as to what citizens would like to see in their new police chief. The usual suspects will be there to lobby for the type of chief whom they can control, badger and blame without retort. In other words, more of the same.

Neighborhoods, such as Glen Park, need to have their voices heard regarding this crucial choice. Make it clear that you wish to see a crime-fighting professional who understands the needs of the law-abiding citizens who pay the freight. This person must also have a connection to those cops in patrol who are the face of the department. We do the work, we take the heat, we have the impact. We need someone who can bridge the disconnect—both internally and with the public—while holding the politicians at arm’s length, preferably by the neck.

San Francisco and Glen Park deserve a police chief who makes logical decisions based on public safety needs, not solely political responses to this latest “expert” study or that supervisor with a noisy constituency. The next chief is going to spend a lot of time sitting by the pool. Let’s make sure it’s someone who splashes back.

SFPD Officer Michael Walsh lives and works in Glen Park.
Dedicated bicycle lanes on surface streets are nothing new to an urban environment. They seem to be popping up with greater frequency as it becomes more desirable to use a bicycle for recreation and transportation in an age of heightened environmental awareness.

Riding a bicycle in San Francisco presents challenges, particularly on busy, often congested thoroughfares like Cesar Chavez and Market streets. Being an avid cyclist, I can relate to many of these challenges. Bicyclists in a bustling urban city can often find themselves in an awkward place, somewhere between a pedestrian and a car. A bicycle usually travels much faster than a pedestrian, but not as quickly as a car; as a result, cyclists often find themselves on an unsafe and stressful obstacle course.

Dedicated bike lanes on city streets serve to combat some of the issues presented to the urban cyclist, pedestrian and automobile. But San Francisco has not had a new bike lane route, nor any bicycle project, implemented since June 2006.

A detailed plan for dedicated bicycle lanes is part of a much larger proposed plan along Cesar Chavez Street that incorporates a sewer project, a wider redesignated median, additional left- and right-turn lanes, new trees, and overall improved street design. The bike lane portion of the Cesar Chavez Street plan is one of approximately 56 bicycle improvement projects (striping bike lanes, installing bicycle racks and signs, etc.) for San Francisco that have been on hold since 2006.

That was when a preliminary injunction was issued against the City of San Francisco by Superior Court Judge James Warren—the result of a lawsuit initiated by one individual and petitioners representing the Coalition for Adequate Review, and a group called Ninety Nine Percent, which says it represents the 99 percent of San Franciscans who don’t ride bicycles in the city.

The official San Francisco Bicycle Plan, which includes the 56 or so projects, was drafted in 1997 and updated in 2005—just before the lawsuit was filed. The suit criticized the plan for not considering the environmental effects of each project, and called on the court to force the City to do so. After several legal skirmishes, the City finally began that process.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is now working closely with the SF Planning Department, the Office of Major Environmental Analysis and other local agencies to proceed with an environmental review of the Bike Plan.

Andy Thornley, program director of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, doesn’t feel the lawsuit is justified. Thornley is one of many bicycle advocates who is extremely frustrated with the current situation. However, he manages to maintain a sense of humor about it all, saying, “It’s the kind of thing that makes an ‘only in San Francisco’ story: those crazy San Franciscans have prevented [implementing] bike lanes on the basis of environmental law.”

Nobody is exactly sure when the environmental review will be completed or when the handicaps will come off the City’s bike plan, but it’s estimated that things will get rolling sometime this summer. More detailed information is available at these web sites: http://cesarchavez.sfpplanning.org; http://www.sfmta.com; http://www.sfbike.org; and www.ccpuede.org.

By Ashley Hathaway
Glen Canyon supports two native buckeyes: Aesculus Californica trees and Junonia coenia butterflies. Buckeye trees embrace our rain/drought pattern by being first to leaf out in the spring and first to go dormant in the fall. Reaching 25 feet in height at maturity on smooth, light grey trunks, their long, five-toothed leaflets emerge chartreuse and mature into a lustrous deep green.

Buckeye’s cream-colored feathery flowers are fragrant early bloomers. Their large fruits are pear-shaped. Usually unappealing to wildlife when mature because of their natural toxins, buckeys are grazed when other food sources are scarce. Scarcity of preferred foods also drove Native Californians to add mashed buckeye seeds into their diets after leaching out the poisons, and they used the seeds as a poultice for snakebites and as a way to stun fish for easier catching.

Once plentiful along Islais Creek’s downward slopes, today there are only two large examples in the canyon. One is on the west side of the creek below the climbing rocks; the other is to the right as you walk up the stairs to Sussex Street. Several saplings are fast becoming young trees in the area where the creek goes underground. Additionally, outside the canyon at the Diamond Street/Diamond Heights Boulevard Muni stop you can find two mature buckeys.

Spiny orange-headed, black-and-white striped caterpillars morph into Common Buckeye butterflies around this time of year. Floating through the hillsides, adult buckeys alight to feed on sticky monkey flowers, bee plants and many other nectar-producing flowers in the canyon. They stop to sip from mud puddles.

Easy to recognize, the butterflies have distinct white eyespots to intimidate predators, orange and purple bars on the leading edges of each upper forewing, and wavy orange, black and white bands around the edges of their brown to tan wings.

**Eco-Notes**

Things you can do to be a Friend of Glen Canyon Park—without actually working in the field or writing checks—are in your own gardens. If you have room, and particularly if you have a natural seep, plant a native buckeye tree above it.

Useful to check erosion on slopes, always beautiful to look at, and perfect for cut flower arrangements, buckeye trees enjoy our clay soil and don’t require supplemental water once established.

In garden settings the fruits are few and far between, so they are easily kept from becoming problematic. Surround your tree under the canopy with companion plants such as seep monkey flowers and columbines; in drier patches, introduce nectar producers such as sticky monkey flowers and California fuchsias and poppies. Then step back and enjoy the home show of butterflies and birds.

Remember Friends of Glen Canyon Park meet every Wednesday morning and every third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m.—noon. Just show up with work gloves and enjoy another way to be part of your neighborhood.

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

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**Digging the Dirt: News from the Garden Club**

By now you’ve received the plant catalogs. You know the ones. Ooh, they look so good. Just looking at pictures of flowers in the dismal winter is therapeutic. Going to the nursery is, too, but once the battle of survival happens at home, I sometimes despair. It’s an experiment. Perhaps you are looking for new concepts for your yard.

Recently, a member of the Glen Park Garden Club, Kate Benn, researched ancient Persian gardens, which had a strong organizing principle. The forbears of today’s gardeners were among the first to domesticate plants into a very formal layout. The gardens inspired the Oriental rug—reflecting ideas of paradise and heaven. Their ideas could be on a big scale—you can actually see the ruins of some in satellite views—but we can apply the ideas they used in closed courtyards in smaller scale in our own yards.

Water was sparse and sometimes collected in a cross-shaped trough with a small fountain at the intersection. Later, monks used this plan in their cloisters. This is an idea you can use. A bubbller fountain in your garden is a great feature: It doesn’t dominate, but it directs attention with movement and focus. It works with a flat or hillside space. It’s easy to make one, but easier still to buy. Here, the trough should be mulch or stones for permeability, with no standing water. It’s a great concept to keep water use down.

The annual Flower and Garden Show will be held at the San Mateo Event Center this year, March 18–22. Bouquets to Art, a fundraiser to benefit the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco at which more than 150 floral exhibitions will be on display, takes place March 17–22 in Golden Gate Park. Both shows will give you many ideas for your garden. By the way, the director of the Flower and Garden Show is a neighbor, Glen Park’s own Kay Hamilton-Estes.

On April 26, during the Glen Park Festival, The Garden Club will have a table in front of the Village Garden, beyond the Festival perimeter. Just cross Chenery Street and walk a few steps up Diamond Street, past Buddies market. Beforehand, take a few minutes to look at all things growing and blooming in your own yard; you’ll no doubt come up with questions. Visit our table, and we’ll tell you about our Village Garden project and try to answer your local garden questions. We might even have things to give away!

**Susan Evans** is a member of the Glen Park Garden Club, which welcomes new members. E-mail her at skel1@pacbell.net.

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**Rec and Park News: Both Good and Bad**

The Glen Park Advisory Board thanks the Glen Park Association for a $700 grant, which allowed us to install a trophy case. Now we are able, for the first time, to display the many awards that Glen Park’s baseball, basketball and volleyball teams have won.

Big thanks, also, to Gonsalves and Stroneck Construction Co. of San Carlos for the donation of the case, and to Celtic Moving and Storage for their much-reduced fee to move the case from San Carlos to the Glen Park Recreation Center.

We also plan to do a history wall of sports and the development of the Glen Park site on either side of the trophy case. If anyone has any photos of the old site, or the building, or any related documents, please contact me so we can include them on our wall. E-mail me at moss3x@earthlink.net.

The remainder of the generous GPA grant will go for programming needs at the park, such as an active play kit, equipment cart, replacement of worn toys for Tiny Tots and rubber matting for the stage play area.

Now for the bad news: Budget cuts to the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department are expected to be large. To reduce the funding gap, the department is handing out about 55 pink slips to full-time recreation directors, to take effect May 1.

The proposed budget-balancing measures are still in flux, as negotiations continue to take place at City Hall on new taxes, layoffs and service cuts.

City unions also have been asked to pitch in with givebacks. The mayor’s proposed budget must be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration by June 1.

As it now stands, City officials are looking to close some rec facilities and to raise fees for recreation activities. The full details have yet to be disclosed.

The sad part is, there is no guarantee that the money the Rec and Park Department saves or the additional revenue it raises will be funneled back into the department. All the money goes into the City’s General Fund, and then it is up to the mayor and the Board of Supervisors to decide how to spend it.

As Rec and Park grapples with the grim budget projections, there’s a new manager of neighborhood services for the department. Eric Anderson has been with Rec and Park for two years before being elevated to his new position. Previously, he worked for 14 years with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. He has a B.S. in plant science and an M.S. in ecology and evolution. If you have any concerns about either Glen Canyon Park or the neighborhood recreation center, you can contact Eric at Eric.Anderson@sfgov.org.

**Miriam Moss** is president of the Glen Park Advisory Board.
Learning the ABCs of Bugs and Bees

On December 7, 21 children and their parents and guardians gathered at the Glen Park Recreation Center to learn about the bugs and bees of Glen Canyon. This hour-and-a-half event was the first in a series of free nature workshops that will be offered to neighborhood kids ages five and under through a grant from First 5 San Francisco. First 5 is funded by the 50-cent-per-pack cigarette tax passed by California voters in 1998.

The day’s activities began with Kelly Herbinson, an entomologist from the California Academy of Sciences, who showed the children pictures of different bugs and then encouraged her students to walk, hop and creep like each bug. The kids (and some grown-ups!) happily obliged.

Next, the children learned about honey bees from Karen Peteros, Glen Park beekeeper and member of the San Francisco Beekeepers’ Association, who had carried her demonstration hive into the canyon for the event.

The kids clamored around the hive to watch the bees go about their daily work. Peteros held up fruit and explained the integral role bees play in the lives of fruiting trees and other plants.

Using close-up photographs of bees, Peteros described how honeybees collect pollen in tiny buckets on their legs to bring back to the hive. She then treated the children to straws filled with her scrumptious honey.

After these indoor activities, Herbinson provided each child with a bug collection kit, and everyone headed outdoors to collect specimens, such as “roly poly bugs” (pill bugs or, more precisely, Armadillidium vulgare). Each child took home a bug collection kit along with a poster from the Academy of Sciences.

The Glen Canyon Nature Program would like to thank Peteros and Herbinson for generously donating their time, expertise and materials. We also extend our thanks to First 5 San Francisco for its support.

The Nature Program’s next event will take place in March and will focus on Islais Creek, which runs through the canyon. These workshops are free and are open to neighborhood children ages five and under and their parents/guardians.

Contributions Still Welcome for Glen Park Library Drive

The temporary signage with names of major donors to the Glen Park Branch Library Campaign will be replaced in June with a permanent plaque.

If you would like to join those whose generosity is commemorated on the plaque—on the pillar at the right as you enter the second floor—the deadline for adding names is early April. A donation of $1,000 or more by then can assure neighborhood recognition for your family, a dear friend or departed relative.

For those who find participation in the plaque a bit pricey in today’s economy, smaller donations to the library are also very welcome, noted Mary Abler, a neighborhood library campaign associate with Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

For information about donating to the Glen Park Library Campaign, contact Mary Abler at 626-7512, ext. 107, send e-mail to mary.abler@friendssfpl.org, or write her at 391 Grove St., S.F. CA 94102.

Free Electronic Waste Collection

On Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., drop off e-waste items free at Commodore Sloat Elementary School on Ocean Avenue just east of Junipero Serra Boulevard. They’ll take TVs, computers, printers, monitors, cell phones, stereo components, power supplies, fax machines, radios, microwaves, DVD players, etc.

Just drive up and your items will be unloaded for you. Items will be fully disassembled and hard drives crushed with a 30-ton press. This free event is sponsored by St. Francis’ Episcopal Church, with the help of Hi Tec Recycling, an electronic waste recycling company.
Howard Reinstein

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or visit www.howardreinstein.com

Prudential
California Realty
Neighbors banded together to protect a bucolic lane in the middle of a city.

Jean Conner, who has lived on Sussex Street for 35 years, watches squirrels scurrying on fences festooned with flowers, along with the occasional raccoon hop-scotching along the lane. “It is rustic,” she says.

There is precedent for these Herculean efforts along the lane. Four years ago neighbors gathered for earlier labor-intensive Penny Lane maintenance. Organized by Adam King, a resident of Diamond Street since 1995, that work party laid gravel, pruned hedges and repaired fences. A participant in the path’s naming, King and his family took part in a ceremonial ribbon cutting, ending the day’s festivities by joining neighbors in singing the Beatles’ “Penny Lane.”

Originally from the United Kingdom, King is not unfamiliar with mews. In English parlance, he offered, such paths are called “twittens.” He added: “It is a bucolic lane that people can stroll through or use as a short cut,” recalling possums he has seen rummaging through blankets of ivy.

Jason Mickelson, a graduate student at the California College of the Arts, lives on Joost Street. “Penny Lane,” he said, trying not to sound too professorial, “mixes private and public space in a way that allows people to think of Glen Park as a community, which is why I chose to live here.”

The nonprofit sector has pitched in: “We are excited that we can help,” said Karen Kidwell, Executive Director of San Francisco Parks Trust, thinking of her freshly minted partnership with Friends of Penny Lane. “Greening city blocks afford an opportunity to bring neighbors together to beautify a communal space.”

Seven-year-old Madeline Aubry of Surrey Street gave her assessment. Asked what she likes about the lullaby-like lane just over her backyard fence, she pondered a moment, almost prompting one to think she may ask a penny for her thoughts. “It is my secret place,” Madeline smiled.

Maybe not a secret place for much longer, though, because if you plant it, people surely will come.

Further information about “Friends of Penny Lane” can be obtained by e-mailing pennylane@project@gmail.com.

real estate in glen park

Activity in the real estate market is picking up in Glen Park. In late February, there were seven single-family homes listed for sale, with the asking prices on the properties ranging from $896,000 to $2.4 million.

At the same time, there were six Glen Park condominiums and TICs (tenancies in common) on the market, ranging in price from $319,000 to $995,000.

Real estate volume of properties tends to slow over the year-end holidays, and December and January were no exception for our neighborhood,

The following four properties sold since last fall, all below asking price:

526 Arlington St. $649,900 $605,000
1027 Bosworth St. $620,900 $600,000
158 Laidley St. No. 1 $729,000 $699,000
201 Miguel St. $795,000 $700,000

Glen Park E-mail Lists

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

Other neighborhood lists include:

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

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

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

Glen Park Dog Owners
gpddog-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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

Fairmount Heights gay neighbors
FHLGBT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
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community calendar

Glen Park Association
Quarterly meetings are held in January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Annual dues of $10 support the Association’s important work on behalf of the neighborhood.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 7 pm, Glen Park Recreation Center, Elk and Chenery streets.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

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

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

Return of the Spiderman: Saturday, April 4, 10 am (postponed to April 11 if a downpour), behind the Rec Center. Co-sponsored by California Native Plant Society, California Academy of Sciences Arachnologist Darrell Ubick points out the canyon’s varied community of eight-legged wonders—spiderlings crawling in the vegetation, wolf spiders running in search of prey or mates, jumping spiders celebrating sunshine, and many others.

Earth Day Celebration: Saturday, April 18, noon. Gather behind the Rec Center and meet some of the folks who volunteer to make our canyon a viable, enjoyable, sustainable community on this afternoon of free food, drink, and conversation.

Glen Park Festival: Saturday, April 26, in the Village. At the Friends booth, volunteers will have historic park photographs, maps and answers to questions about how to get involved in supporting and enjoying our incredible natural resource.

Bird Walk: Sunday, May 10, 9 am, behind the Rec Center: David Armstrong once again shares his expertise on our resident hawks, fledgling owls, secretive towhees, seasonal migrants, and other flying visitors to the canyon.

Every level of bird lover is welcome. Binoculars are highly recommended.

Glen Park Branch Library
Denise Sanderson, Glen Park Branch manager, lists a variety of coming events in her column in this issue. You can always check with the library for all scheduled programs and events.

Following are some of the upcoming events planned at the library, 2825 Diamond St.

Baby Rhyme & Playtime: For ages 0–3. Tuesdays, 10:30 am, March 17, 24, 31; April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19, 26.

Preschool Videos: For ages 3–5. Monday April 13 and Tuesday May 12, 10:30 am.

Family Storytime: For ages 5 and under. Wednesdays, 7 pm, March 18, April 15, May 20.

Teen Poetry Slam Workshops: Every Friday, 4 pm, from March 20–April 3.

Make a Button: For Teens. March 26, 4 pm.

It’s Yoga: For kids. Please call to register: 355-2858. Ages 2–5, Tuesday April 21; ages 3 months–3 years, Saturday April 25; 4 pm.

Computer Class: Mousing and keyboard introduction. Tuesday April 7, 2 pm. Call to register: 355-2858.

SFPD Community Forums
Third Tuesday of each month, 7 pm, Ingelside 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 and get acquainted with the dedicated people who keep our neighborhood safe. Meetings are subject to availability of the captain. For details, call the station at 404-4000.

Next dates: March 17, April 21, May 19.

1906 Earthquake Slides
The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906: Monday, April 6, 7:45–9 pm, Miraloma Park Improvement Club, 350 O’Shaughnessy Blvd. at Del Valle. A free “Lessons in Leadership” slide-lecture presentation by Neil Fahy. For info visit miraloma-park.org or phone 281-0892.

St. Aidan’s Food Pantry
Food Distribution: Every Friday, 1–2:30 pm, St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, Gold Mine Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard, for low-income and disabled clients who live in the 94131 ZIP code.

Kiki-Yo Meditation Classes
Wednesday Morning Meditation Series: 7–7:45 am, $20 for a 4 week series starting April 1 or May 6. Drop-in classes at Kiki-Yo, 605-B Chenery St. comprise guided meditation, dharma talk, and discussions including “what is meditation” and methods to relieve stress and cultivate inner peace during meditation and in our daily lives. To register, call 587-5454.

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

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

Live music options are expanding in Glen Park. Friday evening live jazz, a bookshop fixture for six years, is now supplemented by regular Sunday afternoon concerts with an eclectic array of performers.

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

Live Jazz in the Bookshop: Every Friday, 5:30–8 pm. A revolving roster of bands.

1st & 3rd Fridays: Don Prell’s SeaBop Ensemble, featuring such musicians as drummers Chris Bjorkbom, Art Lewis and Glen Iwaoka, pianist Michael Parsons, guitarist Scott Foster and Bob Brumbeloe, reed players Jerry Logas, Jim Grantham and Danny Brown, with bassist Don Prell.

2nd Fridays: The Jimmy Ryan Quintet: Joel Ryan, trumpet & flugelhorn; Rick Elmore, trombone; Scott Foster, guitar; Bishu Chatterjee, bass; Jimmy Ryan, drums.

4th Fridays: Chuck Peterson Quintet: Howie Dudune, reeds; Glenn Deardorff, guitar; Dean Reilly, bass; Tony Johnson, drums; Chuck Peterson, tenor sax.

(5th Fridays): Flautist John Calloway with a quartet of young players picked for each date.

Which Way West?: Every Sunday, 4:30–6:30 pm. This concert series features Americana roots bands, jazz groups, world music performers, classical music, and more. March 15 - The Lowell Trio classical chamber ensemble featuring SF Opera Orchestra English horn soloist Janet Popescu Archibald and baritone William Tull—both Glen Park residents—with pianist Margaret Wong Fondsertasse, in a program of Bach, Borodin, Ponchielli, Rachmaninoff and others. March 22 - Algerian mondol player and vocalist Moh Alielle & Ensemble. March 29 - S.F. School of the Arts Vocalese Ensemble featuring Glen Park student Michaela Spatt and classmates. April 5 - The Randy Craig Trio with Steven Strauss, bass, and Peter Tucker, drums. Randy, a well-known piano teacher, has performed at the Glen Park Festival. April 12 - David Meltzer and Michael Rothenberg. April 26 - Orfa Root Project. May 3 - Liam Furey.


Literary Talks: Last Sundays, 2:30 pm. March 20 – Walker Brents III speaks about the life of the Buddha.

Special Event:
Sunday, March 22, 2 pm: Tennessee Reed reads from and signs her new book, Spell Albuquerque: A Memoir of a Difficult Student.