



THIS IS LUGARNO

Q3 2026 (August)

What is the Lugarno Progress Association?

The Lugarno Progress Association (LPA) was founded in 1922. It is actually an incorporated not-for-profit community group run by volunteers.



Lugarno is a strong community with almost 6,000 residents, who are proud of the natural beauty of our peninsular suburb and its rich history and indigenous heritage. The main objective of the LPA is to act in the best interests of the ratepayers and residents of Lugarno, consistent with its motto *"Lugarno, naturally beautiful"*. It advocates on behalf of Lugarno residents to preserve or improve for its residents, the amenity and environment of the suburb.

The association relies on information and support from the residents of Lugarno to decide annual advocacy and focus areas. The monthly LPA meetings provide an opportunity for locals to unite and vocalise any resident concerns and to also listen to interesting guest speakers on varying topics. Throughout the year, volunteers organise community events to encourage connection and community spirit. Any new ideas for event and suburb improvements are welcome in our meetings or via email.

You are welcome to attend any of our community events or our monthly meetings (the 1st Monday of every month from 7pm for a 730pm start at church hall of Lugarno Anglican church, except January or December or public holidays). Only members have voting rights. So join today to support our volunteer work and stay informed for \$15 (min) for 1 year, or \$30 (min) for 3 years. Head to our website lugarnoprogress.au to join as a member (or ask for a paper application form).

"Help keep Lugarno beautiful by joining the Lugarno Progress Association and getting involved."

The LPA would like to sincerely thank **Whitebait restaurant**, for their efforts to support & promote the local community. Please make a visit to Whitebait restaurant.



Located at Chivers Hill Shopping Village.
Open Wednesday - Sunday.
Phone: 02 8519 6267

Not only do they have great seafood, but whilst you dine you can enjoy a slideshow of beautiful Lugarno photos taken by local photographers/LPA members Leo Rutishauser & Rob Annesley.

Upcoming events - Save the Date

- Joint LPA/Friends of Glenlee meeting **3pm Saturday 29 August at Lugarno Uniting Church** on Forest Road opposite the shops.
- Next LPA monthly meeting **Monday 7 September at 7.30pm**. Guest Speaker will be from the local community radio station Connect FM 100.9FM. The LPA committee make an effort to organise regular guest speakers, and we would love you to join us, to ask questions and learn something new.
- Spring bushwalk at **10am on Sunday 13 September** led by local bushwalkers Ross Simon and Keith Millar. Stay tuned for meeting place & walking route.
- LPA Walks launch **12pm on Sunday 13 September** at Webbs Dam, Evatt Park. Food/drinks. All welcome.

Details coming soon....

Subject to support from the community and volunteer help, the LPA can repeat some prior events such as our Young Local Leaders and Kids Market and a CFU & Bushfire Education Community Seminar.

Please email us on contact@lugarnoprogress.au if any of these events personally interest you and you wish to help us organise it for Lugarno residents in 2026/7.

This newsletter is currently published quarterly by volunteers. To contribute to our articles or news, or offer ideas or photos, please send before mid-Nov to meet the next edition deadline. Our advertising rates are very reasonable. We offer 1/8th of a page for \$30 (for 2 quarterly editions). To book potential advertising please email us. Bookings will be made in order of receipt. We also welcome donations to assist with future printing costs.

RIVERWOOD POLICE STATION: 02 9717 5399
GEORGES RIVER COUNCIL: 02 9330 6400

Unanimous Resolution of Georges River Council on “Glenlee”

Article by LPA President Linda Simon

On Monday 27th July 2026, Georges River Council voted unanimously that Council submit a Community Acquisition Proposal to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for Glenlee to be assessed for acquisition and potential inclusion into the NSW national parks system. Friends of Glenlee have made a submission to NPWS.

Join the Campaign to save “Glenlee”

There are places that are old, and there are places that tell the story of a community. Glenlee is both.

Tucked away on the Georges River at 80 Boronia Parade, Glenlee is much more than an historic house. It is a rare surviving piece of Lugarno’s landscape and history, where Aboriginal heritage, early European settlement, farming, oyster fishing and wildlife form a time capsule.

Glenlee is part of one of the original land grants in Lugarno, dating from 1856. Celebrating Glenlee does not mean simply looking backwards. It is a reminder that our suburb has a story worth knowing.

It is part of the story of the Georges River. It is part of the story of the families who built our community.

A Development Application (DA) was recently submitted to Council for Glenlee by the owners / developers, but it had to be withdrawn.

Both Council and Friends of Glenlee have made submissions to National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) to have Glenlee included in the Georges River National Park.

Here is the [link](#) to the Friends of Glenlee submission. It is important that you also write your own letter of support. Add your voice to the Lugarno community effort to save Glenlee - come to the joint LPA/Friends of Glenlee meeting.

Thai Social Dinner & Trivia Night

On Saturday 15th August 2026, LPA members and friends dined at Lugarno Thai Cafe Restaurant at Lime Kiln Shops. A delicious local dinner was enjoyed by over 26 members and friends, followed by 3 rounds of trivia with prizes won. It was a wonderful opportunity for community connection and to deepen local friendships. This annual event allows us to support a local business, and to share a laugh whilst learning something new on the trivia questions we got wrong!



Guest Speaker at the July Meeting

Article by LPA Social Media Manager Teanna Dulanovic

Our Guest speaker for the 6th July community meeting was **Charlie Pollock, an Associate Solicitor from Urban Family Lawyers** (NB: the firm is soon to be known as *Urban Law Group*). She was inspirational and educational, providing insight into estate planning, the benefits of putting in place the right legal documents with a solicitor, tips to implement and traps to avoid when reviewing your family’s needs. During her presentation, there were case studies, facts, and examples provided by Charlie (who has been practicing law for seven years now). All attendees agree that she was an excellent speaker, with a clear understanding of the law and how to communicate with families to achieve their goals.

It was a powerful reminder that legal professionals in this space can help remove a lot of future stress for families if you die or become incapacitated without being proactive with your instructions and legacy.

Their firm is based in Riverwood, providing a convenient local option for Lugarno residents. Whilst Charlie’s presentation focused on estate planning, they also practice family law, estate disputes, conveyancing and Supreme Court property.

Visit www.urbanfamilylawyers.com.au

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The Bushtrack – Blackbutt Ave to Evatt Park

Article by LPA Member Ross Simon

Lugarno residents are fortunate to have access to a one kilometre bushtrack that connects Blackbutt Avenue to H.V. Evatt Park. This tranquil walk meandering through natural bushland bordering the Georges River, attracts many visitors who enjoy walking, birdwatching, photography or just for the joy of isolation.

Access to this unique track is currently being denied to many elderly or residents with disabilities by the deteriorating condition of the steps leading into the track.

It took many requests to Council, but these repairs along the whole track have commenced this August. The letter from Council states:

"Georges River Council has engaged a contractor to complete trail maintenance along sections of the H.V. Evatt Park walking trail. The works will include track repairs and the construction of informal stairs to enhance pedestrian connectivity, reduce erosion risks, and improve overall safety. During construction pedestrian access from Linden Crescent, Blackbutt Avenue, and the adjoining fire trail will be closed while works are in progress."

All works will abide by the NSW EPA regulations within the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 to limit impacts to the surrounding environment and residents.

Work commenced at the start August 2026 and will be undertaken Monday to Friday between 7:00am to 6:00pm and on Saturdays between 8:00am and 1:00pm (if required). During this time, construction vehicles will utilise HV Evatt Park Carpark to access the site.

We have also been informed that the repairs could take a month or so, depending on the weather.

If residents have any concerns about this rectification work, please email the LPA or visit an upcoming meeting.



LPA member Ross Simon on the eroded Evatt Park track



Why the LPA loves Lugarno

If you've ever tried explaining to someone from the Northern Beaches or the Eastern Suburbs exactly where Lugarno is, you've probably met a blank stare. "Is it near Cronulla?" they might ask. "Is it past Hurstville?". We usually smile, nod, and quietly keep the secret to ourselves. Tucked away on a leafy peninsula carved out by the winding Georges River, Lugarno is one of Sydney's best-kept secrets. It's a place where the hum of city traffic is replaced by the call of kookaburras, and where life naturally runs a few gears slower.

The suburb owes its beautiful, slightly romantic name to Thomas Lawrence, a prominent early landowner who established an estate here in the 1840s. He named it after Lake Lugano on the Swiss-Italian border. Somewhere along the line, a rolling "r" was added to the mix though.

Before the first Georges River bridge opened at Tom Uglys Point in 1929, or the Alford's Point Bridge later in 1973, Lugarno felt incredibly isolated. Locals relied heavily on hand-operated punts and ferries to cross the river. Today, that historic isolation has transformed into a distinct badge of honour. Because Lugarno is a peninsula with only one main road in and out—Forest Road—we don't get "through traffic." The cars on our streets belong to neighbours, friends, or lost delivery drivers. This unique geography has preserved an incredible pocket of nature.

Glenlee recent survey results

Article by LPA President Linda Simon

Many locals recently had the chance to complete a survey on Glenlee, which was being undertaken by a local school student. This student provided the LPA with the results of the survey and here are some of the main findings below. If you would like a copy of the whole survey and results, let us know.

- There were 135 responses to the survey, and almost all respondents had visited Glenlee.
- 86.7% said that the location couldn't handle multi-dwelling housing development.
- 77.8% were very concerned about Glenlee's future.
- 16.3% were somewhat concerned about the loss of bushland and native vegetation at Glenlee.
- 82.2% thought that protecting local wildlife and habitats around Glenlee was extremely important.
- If the proposed development went ahead at Glenlee, 38.1% said the loss of wildlife habitats would concern them most, 15.8% thought that the reduced biodiversity would, 23.1% thought that the increased pollution and run off into the Georges River would, and 14.6% believed that the removal of vegetation would.

These are some of the comments provided by respondents about their concerns:

- *"Save Glenlee by state government who promised to do so at last state election and to date have failed to show leadership. Glenlee should be compulsorily acquired and could become the jewel in the crown of Georges River National Park."*
- *"To preserve this unique and beautiful area."*
- *"My hope is that the three levels of government (federal, state and local) get together and purchase this amazing waterfront property so that the 228 trees, remnant vegetation, aboriginal artifacts can be saved, protected and loved by not only our local community but the wider community."*
- *"An irreversible loss of an environmental and historic site."*
- *"I feel that this is a missed opportunity to preserve a bushland area for the future."*
- *"Overdevelopment changing the area's character."*
- *"I would like to see this small pocket of Lugarno retained as a heritage site where there is no threat to biodiversity, no loss of wildlife habitats, no additional pressure on an already stressed drainage and sewer infrastructure and where ancient sites of significance can be preserved for generations to come."*

- *"I am not overly concerned about the current limited development proposal. My biggest concern though is, if this goes ahead, it will long term be just the 1st stage in achieving the initially refused complete development of the site."*
- *"Increased traffic."*
- *"I hope the Glenlee development does not go ahead. I would be highly concerned if it becomes the property of developers. This site has a rich cultural heritage. The area also has hundreds of trees that should not be removed."*
- *"Leave it alone."*
- *"That it is purchased by government and becomes a community hub."*
- *"Make it community space and open to all to enjoy direct access to the water."*
- *"Its such a shame to keep building on beautiful areas that are home to wildlife, Lugarno is known for its beauty and to keep building is sad."*
- *"Damage to the environment - loss of wildlife, reduced biodiversity, increased pollution of the river from storm water run off considering the increased hard surfaces and because currently Glenlee absorbs a massive amount of water from surrounding streets and filters it before it reaches the river."*
- *"Lugarno is one road in and out so the traffic build up would be immense at peak hour times, the concern is that Lugarno isn't built for a big development like Glenlee."*
- *"Glenlee is a significant part of the history not only of Lugarno but of the State. It contains history of earlier indigenous and early settler life. With the exception of the homestead and some sheds it has been effectively undeveloped. It remains a pristine piece of land that should be owned by the public and preserved for the future"*
- *"Keep Australia natural."*



Photo Credit: Rob Annesley, LPA Member



History Timeline of Modern Lugarno

Article by LPA Member Caroline Hart

H.V. Evatt Park in Lugarno has a history that stretches from an ancient volcanic past to a hard-fought community battle in the mid-20th century.

Long before it was a park, the land formed the circular, eroded crater of an active maar-diatreme volcano that erupted millions of years ago. Because of this volcanic history, Evatt Park sits on uniquely rich, fertile soil—a stark contrast to the nutrient-poor Hawkesbury sandstone that covers the rest of the Sydney basin.

For thousands of years, the Bidjigal clan of the Eora nation lived in and around this area. The rich volcanic ecosystem provided excellent resources, and extensive historical shell middens, axe-grinding grooves, and cave art have been recorded in the surrounding creeks and the nearby "Soily Bottom" area.

The Market Garden Era

(1920s–1960s)

Recognising the incredibly fertile soil, the Webb family settled the land in the 1920s to grow food. Ernie Webb built an irrigation dam at the northern end and established a highly successful citrus orchard and market garden.

In the 1950s, a Chinese immigrant named **Lee Wun** leased a portion of the property. Alongside his family, Lee transformed it into a bustling market garden producing carrots, pumpkins, and tomatoes. It became one of the last operating market gardens in the Georges River area, serving as a vital source of self-sufficiency at a time when employment options for Chinese immigrants were heavily restricted.

The Battle for the Park

When the market gardens ceased operations in the early 1960s, the land faced immediate pressure from developers. The transformation from private garden to public park was entirely driven by community activism.

First Proposed as Open Space

(1951)

Under the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme, a section of Webb's Gardens is earmarked for future recreational use, though the land is not officially acquired by the government.

The Developer Threat

(1963)

The land is sold to Shirley Constructions Pty Ltd with plans to turn the area into a massive residential housing estate.

The Community Wins Resumption

(July 1965)

Following fierce protests led by the Lugarno Progress Association and local residents, the State Planning Authority officially resumes the 25-acre site. Hurstville Council is appointed as the trustee.

The Park is Named

(December 1965)

The grounds are officially named H.V. Evatt Park in honor of Dr. Herbert Vere Evatt—the brilliant Australian lawyer, historian, federal Labor leader, and Member for the local electorate of Barton.

Levelling the Fields

(1967–1968)

Council initially proposes using the area as a garbage landfill to level the land. Residents fiercely reject this idea. Instead, bulldozers are brought in to cut the playing fields directly out of the natural hill. Shortly after, the Lugarno-Peakhurst Soccer Club prepares the first practice fields.

Saving the Historic Dam

(1977)

Council attempts to fill in the old Webb irrigation dam to build two more playing fields. The community intervenes yet again, forcing the area to be preserved for passive recreation, native bushland, and wildlife.

Evatt Park Today

Today, the park stands as a testament to Lugarno's local community spirit. The upper levels feature active sporting fields utilized heavily for soccer, cricket, and athletics, while the lower end near the historic dam remains a peaceful, protected wetland refuge that still hints at the area's agricultural and volcanic history.

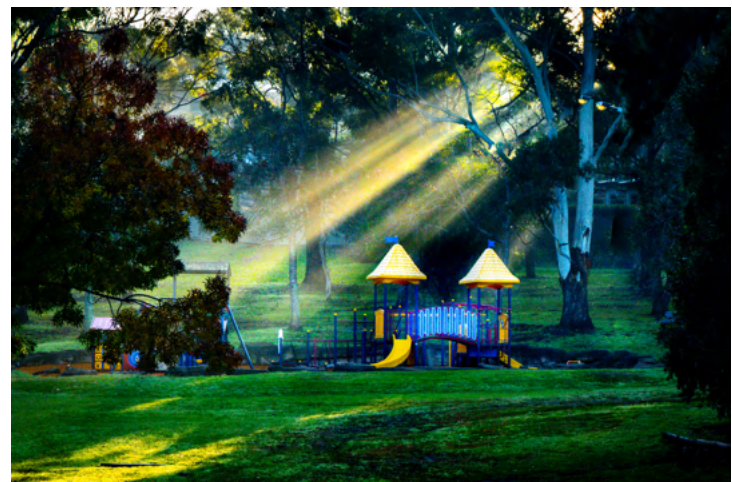


Photo credit: Rob Annesley, LPA member

LPA's Free History Walk on 28-6-2026: Henley Pleasure Grounds to Evatt Park

Article by LPA General Committee Member Linda Henderson

With a wet start predicted for the morning, an enthusiastic group assembled at Chivers Hill shops for the tour-guided history walk of "Henley Pleasure Ground to Evatt Park."

Local historian Ron Denholm provided an entertaining historical background during the walk and answered questions from the attendees. Ross Simon, a long-time LPA member and local resident also provided additional knowledgeable commentary and pointed out the important natural features of the walk (including some well-concealed Tawny Frogmouths on the trail).

From Chivers Hill shops on Forest Road, we walked down Blackbutt Avenue, passing the historical Potter's residence site (corner Forest Road and Blackbutt Avenue), and Truscott house (opposite on Blackbutt Avenue), to the previous location of Henley Pleasure Grounds, at the bottom of Murdock Reserve.

Here Ron provided a tour of the regenerating bushland of Murdock Reserve. The LPA members present appreciated the enormous time and effort this restoration has cost Ron over the years. Ron is also a committed foreshore litter collector and has single-handedly removed tonnes of rubbish over the years. Most of this litter has been washed in from the Georges River, a reminder of the impact that untreated stormwater has on the amount of rubbish delivered into the river. The LPA continues to urge Georges River Council to install additional Gross Pollutant Traps to reduce the impacts of foreshore litter.

There is an extensive history on the Henley Pleasure Grounds of Lugarno dating to 1917 which is available at this YouTube video by Ron Denholm: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tSp-qZliZA>

Briefly, John Boatwright bought 18 acres of land between Forest Road and Saltpan creek in 1926 and started developing Henley Pleasure Grounds near his existing boatshed. The foundations of the boatshed are still there (see image on right). The Boatwright land ran from Forest Road to the river and included a picnic area, boatshed, wharf, pontoon, boat hire and flying fox (still able to be seen attached to tree in the image). An old showboat was set up as a kiosk, and a bus service and small shop completed the amenities. Families often holidayed here at Henley Pleasure Grounds. From 1927, Boatwright built 9 weekenders for families to hire. They were located at 56-72 Blackbutt Avenue.

From the Henley Pleasure Ground boatshed site, we then walked up Murdock Crescent and turned right into Blackbutt Avenue, passing the site of the Blackbutt 9. More information about the early owners of these blocks can be found at the following YouTube video, created by Ron Denholm. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0hXYkfBfVM>

Following on to the end of Blackbutt Avenue, we then walked along the Rainforest track, overlooking the foreshore, to Evatt Park, providing a scenic outlook on the Georges River National Park to the west of Lugarno. The Rainforest Track then turns inland to the rainforest and H.V. Memorial Evatt park, with views of Alfords Point Road Bridge.

We then followed the track east to where it enters a natural rainforest with Coachwood and Lilly Pilly trees. Where the track ends at the entrance to Evatt Park, a few ancient plum trees mark the remains of Connor's Orchard, while Webb's Dam is the only evidence of hectares of vegetable garden owned by Ernie Webb (1948 to 1960). The legacy of productive agriculture is due to the highly productive geology (volcanic diatreme) and soil type (Ferrosols) of Evatt Park.



*Sandstone block
remnants of the old
Henley Pleasure
Ground boatshed
(image above)*

*The remnant cable
from the entertaining
flying fox still visible
on the tree
(image on right)*



Interview with Howard Courtney (LPA member & former President)

Article by Linda Henderson and Sue Emmett



When did you first join the LPA?

It would have been when we first arrived. I was on the Committee from the early 1960's with Huey Dryden and Sylvia Smith (Howard last served as LPA President in 2024).

How long have you lived in Lugarno?

I moved here with my wife Norma and our family in the early 1960's. I was looking for a cheap block of land at the time. One of the local real estate agents had some very steep riverside blocks for sale. They were thought to be too steep for construction. Once I had designed and built my first home, the street became very popular and blocks were selling fast (Howard was a registered master builder). People realised it was possible to build once they had seen it done.

What do you remember about Evatt Part in those days?

I can remember that LPA was very interested in Evatt Park and we discussed the property at every meeting. We endeavoured to get Hurstville Council to discuss buying it (the property was sold to Shirley Constructions in 1963). Very few people are aware that the developer intended to subdivide the former Evatt Park. Without intervention it would have been developed for housing.

Do you have any early memories of Evatt Park?

Hughie Dryden was the LPA Secretary for many years. He used to make his own wine from any of the local Lugarno produce. He sourced grapes and all sorts of fruit, including from Glenlee. I have fond memories of sampling Hughie's wine with other LPA members at gatherings in Evatt Park. We had quite a time!

How would you compare the campaign to save Evatt Park to today's campaign to save Glenlee?

I knew Bill and Alan Matthei well and spent quite a lot of time with them. I used to buy vegetables from them when they had their roadside stall on Old Forest Road next to Lugarno Public School. Later, they sold vegetables directly from Glenlee. I had many conversations with Bill Matthei about the early days and his memories from his Grandfather (Otto Matthei). There is a lot of history worth preserving.



Thank you, Lugarno Lions, for your ongoing support to the LPA and our community. Your kindness and generosity to donate your time and resources is greatly appreciated by the community.

<https://www.lugarnolions.org.au/spring-festival/layout-vendors/>



Upgrading to Direct NBN full fibre: Step-by-step for Lugarno residents

Article by LPA Assistant Treasurer Jasmine Theophile

Many households across Lugarno still rely on Fibre to the Curb (FTTC) or Fibre to the Node (FTTN). While these copper-hybrid connections worked well enough in the past, replacing that final copper leg with a direct fibre optic cable into your home unlocks gigabit-tier speeds, lower latency, and significantly greater reliability. NBN Co's Fibre Connect program allows eligible Lugarno residents to upgrade to direct Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) with no upfront installation fee when ordering an eligible high-speed plan through a participating internet service provider.

Hardware & Connection Layout

An FTTP connection replaces old copper lines with two main equipment pieces:

- **External Utility Box (PCD):** Mounted on an outside wall near your current telecommunications entry point.
- **Internal Connection Box (NTD):** Installed on an interior wall inside your home, within 1.2 metres of a standard power outlet.

Tip: Choose a central, well-ventilated spot inside for your Internal Connection Box where you want your Wi-Fi router to sit.

How to Organise Your Upgrade

1) **Verify Address Eligibility:** Visit the NBN Co website or your internet service provider's upgrade checker. Enter your Lugarno street address to confirm if full fibre is available for your property.

2) **Select an Eligible Speed Plan:** To trigger the free physical upgrade, order a qualifying high-speed tier with your chosen provider.

- Upgrading from FTTN: Requires an NBN 500/50 plan or higher.
- Upgrading from FTTC: Requires an NBN 100/20 plan or higher.

3) **Schedule Installation:** Your provider will coordinate an appointment with an NBN technician. Someone over 18 must be home on the day.

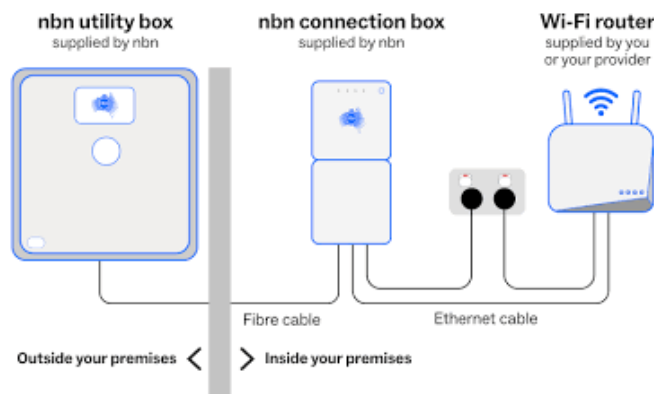
4) **Technician Setup:** The technician will run the fibre cable from the street kerb pit (underground or overhead) to your house, mount the external and internal boxes, and activate your line.

Essential Considerations

Renters: Obtain written landlord or property manager approval before booking, as minor drilling and wall-mounting are required.

Strata & Townhouses: Complex multi-dwelling units may require body corporate approval or coordinated installation through the NBN Strata team.

Router Compatibility: Ensure your existing Wi-Fi router supports Gigabit WAN (Ethernet) input to take full advantage of full fibre speeds.



Phase	What to Expect	Estimated Duration
1. Order Processing	Provider submits request to NBN Co	1–3 business days
2. Technician Visit	External/internal cabling & box installation	2–4 hours on site
3. Activation	Old copper service switches over to full fibre	Under 30 minutes downtime

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We are seeking sponsors to donate to the printing of our newsletters. To contribute to our articles or offer photos, please send before mid-November to meet the next edition deadline. Our advertising rates are very reasonable. We offer 1/8th of a page for \$30 (for 2 quarterly editions). To book potential advertising please email us. We also welcome donations to assist with future printing costs.

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