



SUMMER 2019

# GERSTLE PARK Neighborhood Association

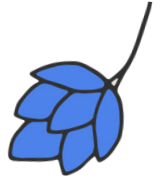


## GPNA Calendar

- 7/20 Gerstle Park Clean-Up Day
- 8/6 National Night Out
- 8/8 Movie Night in Gerstle Park
- 9/22 San Rafael PorchFest

## National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6th 5-8pm  
Gerstle Park Playground



Join the GPNA from 5-8PM for a POTLUCK in Gerstle Park. Bring a dish of your choice to share. GPNA will bring the ice cream! This is a great opportunity to meet the neighbors. San Rafael Police, Fire & City Officials will also stop by to join in the fun.

## We Want to Hear From You

Help the GPNA focus our efforts on what matters most to you! Please go to [gerstlepark.com/survey](http://gerstlepark.com/survey) and give us an idea of your priorities to better our neighborhood. Thank you!

## Park-A-Month Day Gerstle Park

Saturday, July 20th  
9am-12noon

Roll up your sleeves and join us in the park!



### PARK-A-MONTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Join our fun family-friendly volunteer workday to spruce up Gerstle Park! Bring your family and meet your neighbors while painting, cleaning sand, spreading mulch, weeding and more. We'll provide hand tools, gloves, and some old shirts for painters, or bring your own.

Join us from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Co-sponsored by the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association who will bring refreshments!

### GERSTLE PARK JULY 20

For more information, contact Ann Bauer, Volunteer Program Assistant  
(415) 485-3071 or [ann.bauer@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:ann.bauer@cityofsanrafael.org)

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
Gerstle Park  
NEIGHBORHOOD POTLUCK  
Tuesday 8/6 5-8PM  
PLAYGROUND PICNIC TABLES

Join your neighbors, local police and fire fighters for dinner and fun in the park on a weeknight! Bring a dish to share and enjoy FREE ICE CREAM donated by your GPNA! Millions of neighbors in communities around the world take part in National Night Out to build safer communities.

BRING A DISH TO SHARE WE HAVE FREE ICE CREAM  
Let's eat and play!  
All are welcome!

## Summer Movie Night in Gerstle Park

Thursday, August 8th  
"How to Train Your Dragon: Hidden World"

Rated PG

Thursday, August 8th - Screening begins at Dusk. Bring a picnic dinner, blanket and low beach chairs and enjoy this FREE family film favorite sponsored by the City of San Rafael.





# President's Column

by Gina Silvestri



What a difference a month has made for this neighborhood! I'd like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all of the property owners who chose to participate in the City's Sidewalk Repair Program and paid to fix their adjacent sidewalks. The repair work (and the legal debate over responsibility) continues, but the pedestrians and [most all of] the street trees are grateful to you!

There are 4 exciting events happening this summer in Gerstle Park. I think it is safe to say we are offering a little something for everyone. On 7/20, spend a Saturday morning in the Park with your family at the City's Park-A-Month clean-up day. On 8/6, join us celebrating National Night Out/GPNA Annual Picnic Potluck. Then, bring a blanket or low beach chair to the park on Thurs, 8/8 at dusk for an outdoor movie night watching "How to Train Your Dragon" (rated PG). And last but certainly not least comes San Rafael PorchFest on 9/22 from noon to 5pm! Porches and bands are confirmed, now we just need YOU!



## Garage Sale Day

*They came, they saw, they shopped!*



On Saturday, June 15th over 60 Gerstle Park households cleaned out their closets and joined in the fun of GPNA's Annual Garage Sale Day.

Our largest fundraiser of the year, GPNA is proud to announce that we raised over \$1,200 this year, which will

be used to support all of the various events we sponsor throughout the year. Special thanks to all of this year's volunteers, including Amy, CenterPoint, Denise, Gina, Joe, Josselyn, Odessa, Steven & Tom!



# New Renter Protections

by Alicia diVittorio

Earlier this month the City Council approved two new ordinances in favor of renters. Now landlords with buildings that have three or more units need to give "just cause" for evictions. In addition, the mandatory mediation ordinance will require landlords to enter mediation if they increase the rent more than 5% within a 12-month period. The new ordinances mirror those in Fairfax, and as Mayor Phillips points out, this isn't rent control, but steps in the direction to give renters more rights. The decision was made after two contentious city council meetings earlier this year. Some argue that the city needs to address the issue by allowing more housing, others argue that these ordinances are necessary to support every income level in the San Rafael community.

## Sidewalks

*Update from City of San Rafael*

Sixty-eight properties signed up in Gerstle Park for the City of San Rafael's 2018 Sidewalk Program. Twenty-four of those locations have been completed as of 6/26/19.

Thomas Wong is the Project Manager for the City of San Rafael's Sidewalk Repair Program. Even though the sign up date for the 2019 program has expired, Thomas asks that we let residents know that those who may still want to join can and should reach out to Thomas directly at

[thomas.wong@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:thomas.wong@cityofsanrafael.org)

or tel (415)458-5360. Thomas writes, "In most cases it's not too late and we can add them without issue. I just can't make a guarantee that the work will happen this year depending where they are and whether or not Van Midde has moved on to another part of the neighborhood." You can reference his past news posts for more information:

<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/sidewalk-repair-update-roots-sidewalks-and-more-roots/>

<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/srp-update-trees-and-sidewalks-coexisting/>

<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/gerstle-park-sidewalk-repair-ramps-up/>

You can also visually see the progress in Gerstle here: <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/2-20-19-sidewalk-repair-program-see-live-updates-on-our-map/>



# Short Term Rentals in San Rafael

by Denise Van Horn

Short Term rentals (like Airbnb and VRBO) have been in the news lately, like this MIJ article: <https://www.marinij.com/2019/02/20/san-rafael-short-term-rentals-remain-unregulated/>. On August 20th, 2018, City Council directed staff to return with potential actions regarding regulating Short Term Rentals. From March 22nd to April 22nd, over 400 residents took the city's online survey on their experience and opinions with Short-Term Rentals. On May 29th and 30th Community Outreach meetings were held at the Community Center and the survey results were presented. You can view the notes from this presentation online at the city website <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/short-term-rentals/>, click on the link: Short Term Rental Community Survey Findings. Questions? Please contact Ethan Guy via email at [ethan.guy@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:ethan.guy@cityofsanrafael.org) or over the phone at 415.458.2392

# San Rafael PorchFest 2019

by Alicia diVittorio

Mark your calendars, because PorchFest is coming back to Gerstle Park on Sunday, September 22nd!

The PorchFest planning committee has been actively planning for the past few months, and neighbors should expect more of the same: great music, great community-building and lots of fun. We expect a decent crowd, so we're gearing up with plenty of food trucks and we already have some awesome headliners confirmed, including Danny Click, Mark Karan, James Nash, Angelex, San Geronimo, Raz Kennedy, Bryan Kehoe and Mariah Parker.

For those concerned with **closed streets**, please note that Bayview St. (from D St. to Clark St.), Marin St. (from Clayton St. to San Rafael Ave.), Clorinda St. (Marin St. to Clark St.), and San Rafael Ave. (from D St. to Clark St.) will be closed from about 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. that day. To get up to Greenwood or upper Clorinda, **Ross Street will be open to traffic.**

We recognize that parking on the east side of D St. was particularly challenging that day, so we're doing what we can to get visitors to park in the downtown area and walk or take a bus down to the event.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, please reach out! PorchFest is a free, community-driven event, so we need support from the community to make the magical event happen. To volunteer, visit our website, <https://www.sanrafaelporchfest.com/>, fill out [this form](#) and we'll be in touch!



# Fire Risk Advisory Committee Formed

by Sandra Luna



As we all recall, the devastating fires from nearby Sonoma, Butte and Mendocino counties last year, caused death, destruction and immeasurable loss of life.

The damage to the landscape is recovering after our wet winter but most victims are still rebuilding their homes, if not living in trailers, RVs or with friends/family. And though a large fire has not ravaged Marin County since 1923, we all remember the eerie red haze, unsafe levels of air contaminant, and ash on our cars. Kids couldn't play outside and many of us wore masks and kept our doors and windows closed. These conditions lasted two weeks in Marin, even though the closest fires in Santa Rosa were 40 miles away.

This new normal gave many of us pause to consider where will we go, what will we do and what do we pack? These questions should be asked and every household should have a plan with family and friends, in nearby communities to coordinate communication plans, travel plans and meeting places. But in addition to those logistics, there are important measures we can take today, to keep our homes, gardens and neighborhoods from further enraging a fire, should it choose to visit.

To help engage communities across San Rafael, City officials have come together and developed the Wildfire Prevention and Protection Action Plan, which was adopted by the City Council in March. Now, there is a new committee, led by Mayor Gary Phillips, whose primary objective is to help City staff implement the Action Plan. The committee includes top city officials, and citizens, who will work together to review and amend the plan, as

recommended. City staff include Quinn Gardner, Emergency Manager, Jim Schutz, City Manager, and citizens with emergency-related (previous or current) careers as well as neighborhood representatives. I'm proud to represent Gerstle Park.

The committee met on June 19th, to first develop a priority list of items, and will meet again in July. One of the first items we will discuss, is a proposed vegetation ordinance. Our goal is to put in place preventative measures and identify maintenance issues all neighborhoods can implement, to reduce our fire spread probability. We will need your help! You can expect updates and ideas to "harden," your home from fire risk, including the best building materials to use, which plants are less flammable and ways to keep your home safe from easy fire ignition. Little changes you make today, may mean the difference between coming home to find your home standing, or not. The Committee is taking into consideration our current resources, easily added or improved resources and low cost changes anyone can make. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help keep Gerstle Park safe.

## Whistlestop

by Denise Van Horn

There is no doubt about it. All of us are aging. We can't stop it, but we can try to do it gracefully. Thankfully, we have Whistlestop, a non-profit organization with this Mission Statement: Whistlestop believes we share a responsibility to ensure all Marin residents have an opportunity to age with dignity, independence and grace.

Tom and I joined Whistlestop a few years ago, after having lunch at Jackson Café (930 Tamalpais Ave), one of Whistlestop's services. It is across from the transit center downtown and open to the public M-F from 11:30am to 2:00pm. The food is very good, prepared by chefs and served by Whistlestop volunteers, and the price can't be beat--\$6.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. There is always a vegetarian option. You can sit at a small table or join one of the large community tables to meet new people and have lots of conversation. On the 1st Friday of each month there is a community-style breakfast 9-10am (\$3/\$6). Membership dues are \$20/rolling year with no age limit.

The café is only one of many services Whistlestop

offers. The Active Aging Center is in the same building and as you walk through you may see a Mah-jongg game in progress, art and craft works for sale, people relaxing or reading. There are many classes offered at the center including Zumba, Tai Chi, line dancing, Ukulele, languages, computers, ESL, art, etc. Many are free. A Farmers Market truck visits there every Thursday 9-10am. Special events and workshops cover a variety of topics including Medicare, nutrition, scamming, understanding Alzheimer's. German, Persian, Russian and Spanish social groups meet there.

Extensive transportation services are available through Whistlestop, some with a fee and some free (provided by volunteers). Meal delivery services such as Meals on Wheels and Whistlestop Nourish are offered, too. Staff at Whistlestop can connect seniors with a wide range of social, legal, health, nutrition and support services. Those fortunate enough to not need these services (yet!) can participate as volunteers in many of Whistlestop's services. Please check out their website <https://whistlestop.org/>, and look for more information in the next GPNA newsletter.

A proposal to expand the downtown BioMarin campus and build a six-story, 67-unit senior housing and activities building for Whistlestop cleared the San Rafael City Design Review Board recently with conditional approval - <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/999-3rd/>

## Board Members

Gina Silvestri, *President*

Alicia diVittorio, *Vice President*

Tom Heinz, *Treasurer*

Denise Van Horn, *Recording Secretary*

Sandra Luna, *Corresponding Secretary*

Josselyn Robertson, *Member*

Jennifer Horta, *Member*

Odessa Shekar, *Member*

## Treasurer's Corner

by Tom Heinz

- Beginning balance (4/1/19) \$17,122.72
- Expenses \$1,747.82
- Income \$2,041.94
- Ending balance (6/24/19) \$17,416.84

Additional: MarinLink balance \$13,490.00





# Gerstle Park

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Annual Membership Form

Membership year runs from January 1st - December 31st

One vote per individual - \$20/year (\$10 seniors age 65+)

**Renew your membership online at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)!**

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*all GPNA correspondence is via email*

Payment Type:  CHECK  CASH

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### The GPNA is powered by volunteers!

#### Interested in Volunteering for the following events or committees?

If so, please indicate with one or more checks.

Descriptions can be found at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)

PHOTOGRAPHY

GRAPHIC DESIGN

EVENTS

- Spring Fling Egg Hunt (weekend before Easter)
- Neighborhood Garage Sale (June)
- National Night Out - yearly neighborhood potluck in the park (2nd Tuesday of August)
- PorchFest - 50+ bands play on porches throughout the neighborhood (September)
- Halloween Decorating Contest (Judging)
- French Broom Pull in the Open Space (December)
- Christmas Caroling

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCACY IN SAN RAFAEL

- City Planning
- Park Beautification
  - Gerstle Park  Albert Park
- Planning & Development

NEWSLETTER (QUARTERLY)

- Writing
- Distribute newsletters to neighbors

COMMITTEES

- Ready Gerstle Park, Emergency Preparedness
- Community Tree Committee
- Food Committee - help with planning, preparation & service for GPNA events

### Welcome to the GPNA!



2ND ANNUAL

SAN RAFAEL

PORCH  
FEST

2019

SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 22ND 12-5PM  
A FREE AFTERNOON OF MUSIC,  
FUN AND COMMUNITY IN THE  
GERSTLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD  
ALL AGES, NO ALCOHOL PLEASE