



SPRING/SUMMER 2020

GERSTLE PARK

Neighborhood Association



GPNA Calendar

Events coming as soon as we know it's safe to gather!

Short School Update

Principal Pepe Gonzalez 4/27/20

“CAM, Community Action Marin will be moving in over the summer. That was the plan and it all is still moving along. They will have 8 classrooms rented and occupying them with 3 & 4 year olds. Hope you are staying healthy... Adios, Pepe”

Congratulations to the Short School Class of 2020!



Earth Day Mushroom Hunt



Kentfield artist Margaret Muldoon selects her mushroom.

In the spirit of the neighborhood Teddy Bear and Rainbows “hunts” on Earth Day (4/22), neighbors were invited by long-time Gerstle Park resident Adrienne Biggs to pick up a handmade Mushroom to “plant” in their front yard or plant anonymously during their walks in the neighborhood. If you see a Mushroom “planted”, leave it there for the next person to enjoy! These 100 decorative Mushrooms were handmade by Adrienne reusing Earth-friendly champagne corks and water-soluble paints. Gloves and masks were worn during their creation. These contributed to the spirit of community, creativity and fun.



Sneak peek at the 2021 SRPF artwork by Beau Hanson, neighborhood graphic designer and artist.

With a heavy heart, we’re sad to say that PorchFest, as you know it, won’t happen this year. We’ve been tracking COVID-19, and it we feel it’s in the community’s best interest to not hold a large, thousand-person event in our neighborhood this year. We love this event, but we need to put the health and safety of our community first. That said, the PorchFest Committee is thinking through potential PorchFest “alternatives” -- different ways we could safely bring great music to our community. If you have any great ideas or have been to any alternative, “COVID-friendly” events recently, please let us know. We’ll keep you posted as we get closer and have more updates.

President's Column

by Gina Silvestri



What a difference a few months can make! For the GPNA, spring 2020 in the neighborhood started off with the usual plans for the Spring Fling and various other upcoming neighborhood gatherings. My brain was filled with the standard seasonal questions like, "Where can I buy Girl Scout cookies??" Then, WHAMMO. Life as we knew it changed instantly.

As rough as the last few months have been, given the uncertainties and challenges brought on by all of the things we CANNOT do, I have continually found myself comforted by and appreciative of what we DO have, right in our neighborhood: flat walkable streets, access to open space, friendly caring neighbors who are sharing their talents with their neighbors - sewing masks, sharing food, shopping for others, displaying teddy bears & brightly painted mushrooms for children, howling, singing and sharing gardening & cooking ideas!

Special thanks to our Spring Fling Bunny and the Hanson and Bruel families for spreading joy around the neighborhood on Easter morning. Thanks to the all of the musical acts who performed Friday night livestream concerts during Shelter in Place, including Danny Click & the Hell Yeahs, the Moonwalkers, DJ Ian MacDonald and Jon Mitguard & Barbwyre.

We are sad to report that Garage Sale Day (6/20) and PorchFest (9/20) will not take place this year. Please note that we are closely watching the state and city



Teddy bear in on Bayview St.

Coronavirus guidelines for events and we will reassess this summer.

UPDATE (6/11): The County just announced a tentative plan for the June 29th opening of indoor restaurant dining, hair salons, gyms, and hotels. (Yay!!) Stay well, everyone!



The Easter Bunny makes her rounds through Gerstle Park Neighborhood on Easter morning

Mask Maker, Mask Maker, Make Me a Mask

by Sandra Luna



As the Shelter-in-Place weeks have (slowly) flown by, many of us have dug through our garages and closets to find our old masks from fire season two years ago. Maybe some were lucky enough to find some at a store. Others

may know someone who is making them. In all shapes, colors, sizes and materials these little germ blockers are the new accessory to any outfit and one more thing you need to add to the list of things to remember before you leave home: keys, glasses, purse/wallet, phone---mask? Though no one is claiming that masks are 100% preventative for the Covid-19 infection, masks are one weapon in an arsenal of preventative measures along with social distancing, hand sanitizing and hand washing.

I dug up my two-year-old N95 mask and though you're not supposed to reuse them it was all I had. After two weeks it started to smell like old chapstick. Then I started hearing about a new generation of sewing soldiers, ie "mask makers," offering affordable or even free masks! I've discovered these Mask Makers tend to be crafty ladies who are creative and natural helpers. I do know a few men doing this. Though prior sewing experience certainly helps, it's not a requirement. We wanted to hear from these mask makers and learn what inspired them.



I was walking my dog down Reservoir Road a few weeks ago when I saw an inviting sign, “Ring the Bell for a Free Mask!” What---a free mask?! Oh, how I longed for a washable, chapstick-free mask. Sure enough, I rang the bell and out popped two people from their second floor sliding glass door. Down came a sweet basket on a rope giving me a choice of several colors and patterns. Bliss! Lisa and her husband have lived in the neighborhood for nearly eight years. “I knew there was a need,” Lisa said. She didn’t always sew but is a member of the Marin Needle Arts Guild and says these ladies went straight to work, anticipating the need for face coverings. The Guild has sewn and distributed over 800 masks for hospice and affordable housing groups. “I want isolated people to know that other people care,” says Lisa, who has also been mailing them around the country.



Patty selling home-made masks outside her Bayview home in April.

In the heart of our neighborhood on Bayview is Patty who through word-of-mouth has supplied several in our neighborhood with masks. Patty spent 25 years teaching quilting, sewing and textile arts. “I already had my table out and I had lots of fabric,” Patty said, “I knew we’d need them so I started making them for family and friends.” Patty has made over 100 masks, donating several to the Canal district and selling some from her home. If you walk by Marin and Bayview, look for the sign. Patty grew up in Marin and moved to Gerstle Park six years ago, “I didn’t know about Gerstle Park, but I love it. It’s such a great neighborhood.” For a joke, initially Patty made a bridal mask for her soon-to-be daughter-in-law. The bride loved it, and when she shared the photo, Patty had two more orders. The bridal mask comes complete with a little veil.



Lucinda making masks in her garage in April.

Another helping soul in our neighborhood is Lucinda Otto who recently moved to Gerstle Park in 2019. Lucinda is a real estate agent but she transformed her garage (which was supposed to be man cave for her partner, Rob) into a production-line sewing studio. Lucinda went to work harvesting the elastic and material from new-ish twin bed sheets her daughter was now *not* using at college. “My grandmother, who has lived through two world wars, showed me to use what you have,” said Lucinda. She first began sewing her masks when her 97 year old grandmother, living in an independent living facility in Los Angeles, said she needed masks for visitors to the facility. Lucinda was able to mail her grandmother several dozen masks, share them with neighbors and continues to mail them to others in need.

Anyone can make a mask. There is an easy t-shirt-into-a-mask option that you can google and using just a t-shirt and some scissors, have an instant, washable mask in minutes. There is also an easy bandana version, using two pony tail holders. The thoughtful, artful, generous women who are making these masks in Gerstle Park make me think that in years to come, our 2020 “Rosie the Riveters,” will be called something more like “Mary the Mask Makers.” They are indeed rising to the call of duty and fulfilling the needs of those around them. I for one am grateful.



Beautifully Renovated Apartments on Ross St.

by Michael Bruel



The newly renovated apartment building is almost complete at the corner of Ross and Clark. It has six completely new apartments with at least one covered parking spot for each apartment unit. The building had been an eyesore for the neighborhood for what seemed like forever. Here is a photo of what it looked like before the renovation:



147 Ross Street Apartment building before renovation.

Here they are now! The apartments should be available mid to late June or early July.



147 Ross Street Apartment building renovation is nearly complete.

Please give our new neighbors a warm welcome once the building opens up and new tenants move into our beautiful community here!

A Friendly Reminder...



Gerstle Park Playground is closed.

“During shelter in place recreational areas with equipment that lots of people touch or areas where people gather close together, like playgrounds, picnic areas, and barbeque areas must be closed and you cannot use them while the Order is in effect.” From County of Marin website May, 2020.

Street Angels Connect Us

by Kim McGinnis



Do you know a neighbor that may not have a friend or connection during this isolating period? **Neighbor to Neighbor** is a new program developed by the City of San Rafael designed to connect us to those in our neighborhood who may not have a computer or smart phone or may not have family members close by to connect with them. We know that many of you are already checking in on neighbors in need of assistance, but if you would like to be a leader on your block that coordinates or initiates a call or personal note to 5-10 of your neighbors please email info@gerstlepark.com. We will send you some information and a list of addresses and names to contact.



DPW Safety Updates

Please watch for the following traffic safety improvements from the City of San Rafael:

- **1st/E** - All way stop
- **C/Taylor** - All way stop
- **Octavia/Martens** - Stop and crosswalk on Martens
- **D/San Rafael** - additional pedestrian crossing signage and striping for the uncontrolled crossing
- **C and D Streets** – Opening to Two-Way Traffic
Currently C Street is one-way northbound from 5th Avenue to 1st Street. D Street is one-way southbound from 5th Avenue to 2nd Street. The Public Safety Center, being constructed across from City Hall, will have driveways for emergency vehicles on both C and D Streets. The Police and Fire Departments have been working with Public Works to come up with a plan to open C and D Streets to two-way traffic. This will greatly help with emergency response time.

The timeline for this project is expected to be:

- June 2020 – Phase 1
Traffic Signal Modifications
- June - July 2020
Phase 2 - Opening of C and D Streets to two-way south of 4th Street
- July - August 2020
Phase 3 - Opening of C and D Streets to two-way north of 4th Street

For more information about the project, please visit <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/active-projects> and find the icon labeled “Two-Way Conversion of C and D Streets”.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/contact-public-works/> or at (415) 485-3361.

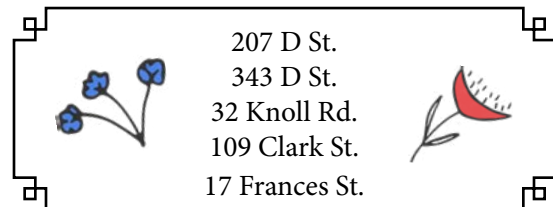
Little Free Libraries Near You

by Denise Van Horn



It has been months since you could walk into the library on E street, browse the shelves, and check out a few books. The downtown library began curbside pick-ups and returns on June 3rd (by phone only--call 415-485-3323), but is not

yet ready to fully open. There are alternatives for those who are craving more reading material. Gerstle Park Neighborhood has 5 book-sharing boxes, where you can borrow books neighbors have donated and donate books of your own. There’s a wide range of topics and genres, and the boxes themselves are a pleasure to look at. Some are registered with “Little Free Library”, a trademarked term for a non-profit that “inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world.” Check their website if you are interested in having one at your house or want to learn more! <https://littlefreelibrary.org/about/>. Here’s where you can find book sharing boxes in Gerstle Park neighborhood...



Graphic Help Needed

Is Graphic Design in your wheel house?

GPNA is still looking for a member who can help us with volunteer graphic design, including quarterly newsletter layout, flyers and neighborhood posters for events. Please email Gina at info@gerstlepark.com for more information.



Music Music Music

by Alicia diVittorio



COVID-19 presents different challenges for everyone in the neighborhood, but we're hoping that our Friday night livestreams featuring local Gerstle Park residents brightened your week! A quick back story: Early on, during the shelter-in-place (when we thought it might last just a few weeks), the GPNA wanted to find a way to get the community together when we needed to be apart. Thanks to technology and several talented local musicians the GPNA was able to pull together six independent concert live streams featuring all sorts of music. A huge thanks to Danny Click, Jon Mitguard, Adrienne Biggs, Nyle Lannon (Moonwalkers), Ian McDonald, Mary Ann Nardo, and Dana Rath.



Socially distant neighbors enjoying the music on a Friday night live stream in Gerstle Park Neighborhood



Jon Mitguard, Mary Ann Nardo and Dana Rath play while distancing for a Friday night live stream



Danny Click and the Hell Yeahs play while distancing for a Friday night live stream

Online Library Storytime



Wednesdays and Thursday at 10:30am via [Facebook Live](#)

Missing your weekly storytimes at the library? They're still here! Catch your favorite librarians offering storytime every Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30am on the [library Facebook page](#). If those times don't work, you can still join the fun by watching one of the [archived videos](#) or checking out the [storytime playlist](#) on YouTube. For families with kids aged 0-5.

Hungry? Support Local Restaurants!

by Denise Van Horn

The past three months of sheltering in place have been very difficult for our local businesses. We are happy to offer information about a few here. GPNA encourages you to support them however you can.

MUFFIN MANIA - 2 Bayview St. is open 6am-1pm M-F and 7am-1pm Saturday. Their menu is the same. They currently have patio seating and will be adding sidewalk seating.

<https://www.muffinmaniarestaurant.com/>
415-456-7345.

They are eager to reconnect with all their neighbors!

CASA MANANA - 711 D Street welcomes all of you to order food for pick-up 9-9 every day. Website is not yet available but search "Casa Manana San Rafael" to find the menu.

415-456-7345

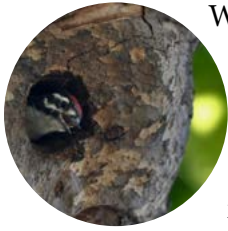
PANAMA HOTEL RESTAURANT - 4 Bayview St, is not yet open, but is working toward it.

In addition, the City of San Rafael is posting which businesses have applied for sidewalk seating and retail. You can subscribe to these updates by scrolling to the bottom of this webpage:

<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/> .

New Kids on the Block

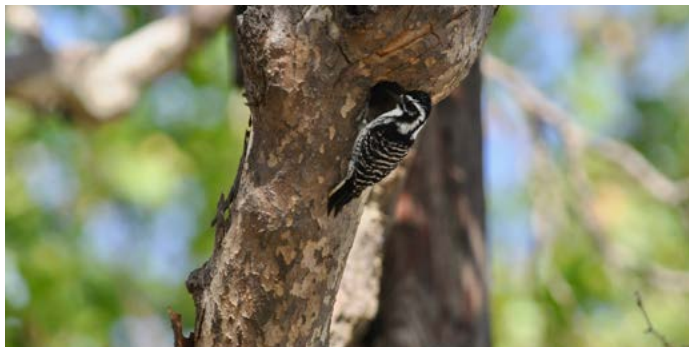
by Sharon Barnett



We have some new kids on the block! That's right, a Nuttall's Woodpecker pair raised a brood in one of the C Street Sycamore trees. During one of my sheltering in place neighborhood walks, I heard baby birds begging followed by some very short rattles, as if a Nuttall's Woodpecker chick was trying out the call for the first time. I looked up and sure enough there it was- a perfectly round hole three quarters the way up the tree. Pop! A head appeared and the chick began practicing the rattle call again. I could see it had red crown feathers- it's a boy! A few seconds later a male Nuttall's zipped over and began feeding the chicks, the female appeared a second later and waited her turn. Within a minute the chicks were fed and quieter and the parents were off on another neighborhood insect scavenger hunt. This exhausting feeding cycle continued every five minutes during the thirty minutes I watched. I continued to watch and photograph for the next week knowing they would fledge any day.



Male feeding male chick



Female just fed her chicks

The chicks were big and constantly peering out of the hole, probably out of curiosity and shrinking living quarters. (Sound familiar these days?) The chicks fledged and are now practicing finding their own meals with parental assistance. They'll continue begging to be fed until the parents are fed up and completely sever the tie.



Seven woodpecker species can be found in our neighborhood, including the largest in North America, the Pileated Woodpecker. Like woodpeckers, songbirds have their young in Spring and Summer. To protect and support birds, tree trimming is best done in late Autumn. When adding trees, consider native species; alders and oaks are particularly beneficial to birds. Keep in mind, we have some very early nesters, like Anna's Hummingbirds and the Great Horned Owls. Next time you are walking through our beautiful neighborhood keep an ear out for the rattle- you just might see the new kids on the block!

Sharon Barnett

Naturalist, Science Teacher & Gerstle Park Neighbor
www.MarinNature.com

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*

Kim McGinnis, *Member*

Michael Bruel, *Member*

Treasurer's Corner

by Tom Heinz

- *Beginning Balance (2.17.2020)* - \$16,993.41
- *Expenses* - \$5,334.28
- *Income* - \$5,431.16
- *Ending Balance (5.31.2020)* - \$17,090.29
- *Porchfest Balance (5.31.2020)* - \$4,07.27
- *Marin Link Balance (5.31.2020)* - \$16,250.00
- *(not included in Bank Balance)*





Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Form

One vote per member. Membership year runs from Jan 1st - Dec 31st

Renew your membership online at www.gerstlepark.com!

- RENEWAL** ___ # of Seniors 65+ @ \$10 ea.
 NEW MEMBER ___ # of Regular @ \$20 ea.

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

- 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!

PO BOX 150644 • San Rafael CA • 94915-0644 • www.gerstlepark.com