

# Gerstle Park

---

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

---

Early Fall 2012



## FREE & FUN – IT’S A LUAU\*!

**Annual GPNA Picnic – Sunday, September 9, 2012**

Gerstle Park Basketball Court and Playground Area

**3:30-6:30 PM**

Live Hawaiian music with the steel drums of Mary Spaulding of Steel Jam

*Put a flower behind your ear, dress in your favorite Hawaiian/Polynesian Shirt or coconuts and wear your little grass skirt. If you can, contribute or lend fun decorations for our picnic, like Tiki sculptures, coconuts, large flower arrangements, palm trees etc.*

**Join the Volunteer Committee** – We’re raring to go and would love your help! Contact Amy Likover to volunteer, [president@gerstlepark.com](mailto:president@gerstlepark.com)

Opportunities to help:

- 2:00-3:30 Decorate GP, set up picnic
- 3:30-5:30 Children’s games + more; Burger flipping, serving
- 6:30-7:15 Clean-up, break-down

Grab this opportunity to renew your Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association membership (\$20 individual, \$10 senior)

**New This Year:**

- Bring your business cards! The GPNA will include them in a digital E-business directory.
- Gerstle Park Dragon T-shirts, a real fashion statement – Only \$5!!!
- Packets of GPNA Note Cards/envelopes - Heritage home drawings – 6 for \$5. Make excellent gifts.
- Free Prizes for the kids
- Fun local business raffle tickets will be sold – 6 tickets for \$5, 1 ticket for \$1

Contact [gpnapicnic@gerstlepark.com](mailto:gpnapicnic@gerstlepark.com) to contribute prizes-Thanks!

**Food:**

GPNA provides the veggie & meat burgers, hot dogs and beverages

**You bring a side dish to share**

- |                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Last names A-L | Salads and side dishes  |
| Last names M-Z | Fruit dishes & Desserts |

\*Without the roasted pig!

## 2012 Gerstle Park Garage Sale a Huge Success!

I love the GPNA Garage Sale! Every year, I look forward to it and agonize over whether to hold a garage sale myself or spend the day bargain hunting around the neighborhood. Some of my most cherished possessions have been acquired through the neighborhood garage sale. As a new GPNA Board Member, I eagerly offered to help organize the 2012 Annual Gerstle Park Garage Sale this year.

Saturday, June 16 was a fun day with 63 homes in the neighborhood holding garage sales – and, the GPNA raised more than \$1,200 in support of our future neighborhood events. In response to your suggestions, we introduced a few new ideas this year: we changed the time of the sale so it ran from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Good Will Industries came to the neighborhood with a large donation truck for 2 hours after the sale so that participants could donate unsold items; and maps of the sale were posted on the GPNA website and handed out by garage sale participants.

We have also created a unique email address [garagesale@gerstlepark.com](mailto:garagesale@gerstlepark.com) for your questions and comments about the sale. People have offered great feedback and I welcome more to help us with planning for next year’s sale. One idea that has been expressed multiple times by neighbors who live in areas of the neighborhood that don’t get great foot traffic on Garage Sale Day have said that they would love to connect with residents in more central locations to share or “borrow a driveway” for the day. Along the same lines, people asked about having Gerstle Park or Short School to be opened for a common location on the sale day.

Please email me at the [garagesale@gerstlepark.com](mailto:garagesale@gerstlepark.com) e-mail address above with additional any ideas. And, if you took photos during the GPNA Garage Sale that we can post on the website, we’d love to have those too. All feedback is welcome!

-Gina Silvestri,  
GPNA Board Member





"National Night Out" in Redwood Grove with Mayor and Police Chief

## President's Column

### Hi Neighbors!

Hope this finds you enjoying our beautiful summer climate with its gentle breezes and sunny skies. The neighborhood trees are in full leaf aside from our very own California Buckeye that follows a March-July schedule. We are grateful for the umbrellas of shade and sun-dappled light provided by Gerstle Park's quiet streets.

Tuesday night we joined the Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods in a San Rafael Police Department sponsored event "National Night Out" at the Redwood Grove in Gerstle Park. There were 8 neighborhoods participating in the event that enjoyed a beautiful midsummer evening together. We all welcomed visits from our Mayor, Councilman Connolly, Police Chief Bishop, Fire Battalion Chief Lydon and a great showing of our first responders. Hope you had a chance to enjoy an event; it was really fun!

I know you join me in wishing our friends at the Panama Hotel a speedy recovery as they bring the hotel back to snuff after a brief shut down. Your GPNA delivered a pretty arrangement of flowers to proprietor Dan Miller, a strong GPNA fan.

Boy, did we have a great Garage sale this summer! Read Board member Gina Silvestri's report on one of our best fundraisers ever. There are also reports in our newsletter from GPNA committees and community members who work hard to make Gerstle Park a great place to live and do business.

Come one, come all Gerstle Park neighbors, to our annual late summer picnic. Mark your calendars for an early dinner and live music and dance Sunday, September 9th! It's a block party, political meet and greet, a concert and a potluck all in one. We love to see old friends and make new ones, so come on over to the park for a great time.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Amy Likover

GPNA President

## GPNA Financial Corner

Treasurer report for June & July 2012

Garage sale - gross	+\$930.00
Dues June & July	+\$610.00
Expenses June & July	-\$170.27
<b>Current balance</b>	<b>\$3080.85</b>

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training: Starts Sept 4th

In the event of a major disaster, professional emergency services may be overwhelmed and unavailable for long periods of time. The widespread needs of the community will depend upon voluntary assistance. With this in mind, the local governments in Marin County have adopted a citizen training program called Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). CERT is designed to provide hands-on training to become self-sufficient for at least 72 hours following a disaster such as an earthquake, flood, or a wildfire.



CERT teams are trained in basic emergency response procedures such as:

- Conducting an initial size-up of the situation in their immediate area
- Reducing immediate dangers by turning off utilities, suppressing small fires, and evacuating hazardous areas
- Performing immediate medical triage and basic treatment of injuries
- Assessing structural integrity and performing light search and rescue
- Collecting and recording vital information to be relayed to professional responders on damage, victims, and actions taken or resources needed
- Providing leadership to untrained volunteers

San Rafael Office of Emergency Services (OES) is offering the CERT Basic class:

15 hours: Tuesday September 4, 11, 18, 25 and October 2 from 6-9pm. The cost of the class is \$45.

For further information, contact 485-3409 or [www.marincountycert.org](http://www.marincountycert.org). If you are already trained in CERT and would like to be part of a team response as a block captain, please contact [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com).

## Ghosts, Goblins and Ghouls - oh my!

Get into the spirit of Halloween this year by participating in the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association's annual **Haunted House Decorating Contest**. Three prizes will be awarded on October 31, 2012 by a distinguished panel of judges to GPNA neighbors who get their creative "All Hallows Eve" juices flowing with the best carved pumpkins, spider webs, mummies and more. Prepare your home for trick-or-treating, celebrate the season and join the fun!

## See Something Say Something

Recently there was a home break-in followed by an auto break-in on Redwood Drive. This is highly unusual for this tranquil part of our neighborhood. Concerned neighbors met with a SRPD detective and patrol officer who gave many suggestions about how to prevent these occurrences. Also discussed at this meeting were the problems that have been persistent in Gerstle Park and the downtown. Although there been issues with litter and ordinance violations in the park, the police department and our Open Space Ranger, John Cohen, have made a positive impact for all of us.

As a reminder, please call the police at 485-3000 when you see something wrong. Make the call! Subscribe to SRPD press releases and emergency notices via email on this link, <http://www.srpd.org/mail/?p=subscribe&id=3>



## Report – Residential Support Facility Ordinance Amendments, Info Meeting June 28<sup>th</sup>

Our neighborhood was eloquently represented by GPNA Pro Bono Attorney, George Silvestri as city officials explained amendments to current zoning ordinances as they pertain to unregulated group homes known as “residential support facilities” in the amendment document. George maintained our position that adequate health and safety standards must be met to protect residents inside group homes as well as their neighbors. He voiced concern that the amendment’s “ministerial” v. “discretionary” planning approval process does not allow for a public hearing and decisions are not appealable, notice for planning approval is only distributed to adjacent properties and he had a number of other concerns which will be submitted in writing to the City Attorney’s office. The proposed amendments, if adopted this fall by the City Council, represent the regulation of the Sober Living Facilities that house more than 6 residents plus staff. Although imperfect as they stand, the recommendations are a victory for governance.

*I was pleased to learn that all “residential support facilities” would be governed by these amendments regardless of their start date.*

The amendments will be sent to the Planning Commission for approval in Sept/Oct and on to the City Council for hearings and vote in Oct/Nov.

Amy Likover  
Liaison to GPNA Board, Sober Living Committee  
[president@gerstlepark.com](mailto:president@gerstlepark.com)

## More on San Rafael’s Homeless

Reporting in from the San Rafael Group, an independent organization of San Rafael residents and business people working to better the City’s approach to the homelessness problem. The group recognizes the accomplishments of the social service agencies, but focuses on the problems that many of us see everyday in parks, the open space, neighborhoods and downtown. We are seeking solutions to the problems.

Mayor Phillips and Councilman Levine oversee a City Council Homeless Committee. The committee has already met once and there will be more meetings coming. Hugo Landecker, who is head of San Rafael Group, has been appointed to the committee and has submitted a long list of issues he expects will be addressed and rectified.

You will probably be hearing about a plan to have downtown street teams to deal with homeless problems. All the information at this date is very tentative.

If you would like to join San Rafael Group, please email Hugo Landecker at [clandecker@saber.net](mailto:clandecker@saber.net).

## San Rafael Doings – What’s Happening in Our Town

For a complete “Snapshot” Consult City Manager Nancy Mackle’s Blog <http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/citymgr-snapshot/>

## New Pick Up Program for Batteries, Paint, Oil and Other Household Waste

A pilot Household Universal Waste Pick-Up Program (HUWPUP) started on July 5 in San Rafael. Residents can call the Household Hazardous Waste line at 485-6806 for an appointment to have their household universal waste picked up at their home for a \$25 fee. HUWPUP will accept universal waste such as household batteries, fluorescent bulbs, cell phones, computer monitors and other e-waste, as well as latex paint, oil, and oil filters. Residents must be home for the pick-up appointment and must sign a receipt.

## Activity on SMART Line

You may have seen activity on the SMART rail line in North San Rafael over the past few weeks. SMART personnel, working with the SRFD, have completed weed abatement and vegetation management. SMART has informed the City they will be working on the actual rails from Civic Center Drive to Smith Ranch Road from mid July to October.

## GPNA Calendar of Events

### Tentative schedule

Sept 9	Sun	Neighborhood Picnic
Sept 13	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Meeting
Oct 11	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Meeting
Oct 31	Wed	Halloween House Decoration
Nov 8	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Meeting
Dec 13	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Meeting
Jan 24	Thur	Annual Meeting

We encourage all to attend the Board Meetings which are held each month from 7-9PM at different locations. Please verify time and location prior to meeting by emailing [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com)



# Gerstle Park

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Membership Form

Please complete the information below and return with your check to:  
GPNA, P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael CA, 94915-0644

*Membership year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>*  
One Vote Per Individual - \$20/year (\$10 seniors age 65+)

NEW MEMBER     RENEWAL

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

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

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

*all GPNA correspondence is via email*

Payment Type:     CHECK     CASH

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



*Check events of interest to you. We welcome you to a year full of neighborhood fun & friendship!*

- Spring Fling Egg Hunt
- Annual September Picnic
- Newsletter Reporting, Quarterly
- December Caroling
- Other social events
- January Annual Meeting Refreshments
- Summer Garage Sale
- Membership promotion, year-long
- Halloween events
- New neighbor welcoming
- Open space invasive species eradication, Nov-May

Neighborhood advocacy in San Rafael city government, Year-long

*Check Issues of interest to you.*

- Homelessness
- Gerstle Park
- Group home regulation
- Zoning enforcement
- Albert Park
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

visit our website  
[www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)

**Welcome to the GPNA!**