



Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Fall 2017



GHOSTS, GOBLINS AND GHOULS, OH MY!



Halloween Decorating Contest

Tuesday, October 31st

Prepare your home for trick-or-treating, celebrate the season and join the fun! Prizes will be awarded by a "Distinguished Panel of Judges" to Gerstle Park neighbors who get their creative "All Hallows' Eve" juices flowing with the best carved pumpkins, spider webs, mummies & more.



Panama Hotel on the Market



The iconic Gerstle Park bed and breakfast hotel and concert venue, The Panama Hotel, is up for sale. GPNA former Board member and current Panama Proprietor Dan Miller has decided to retire, "It has given me a great deal of pleasure to run the Panama Hotel for the last 33 years and to be a part of The Gerstle Park neighborhood." The Historic Panama Restaurant and Hotel, originally founded in 1926, is a boutique inn offering 14 rooms and a full service restaurant. The hotel is known for its brunches, lunches and gourmet dinners in the dining room and year-round on the veranda. The music nights were started by Gerstle Park's Bryan Gould and his band, "Swing Fever" on Tuesday nights. Gradually over the years it has expanded to three nights a week with a variety of music styles.

The GPNA has gratefully held events in the Panama dining room, including community meetings and our Annual Winter Social when the staff caters a scrumptious holiday fare to the neighbors. We thank Dan and his family! Dan is looking for a certain kind of buyer, one "Who would continue the Panama as a neighborhood restaurant and inn."

President's Column

Gina Silvestri



Although I joined the GPNA Board in 2012, this is my first year serving as President...*of anything*. I agreed somewhat reluctantly to serve as President when the need arose. With the demands of a full-time job in San Francisco, I was apprehensive about being able to handle all that the job entailed. However,

when Hugo Landecker agreed to serve as my Vice President I was instantly comforted and thought, "Okay, maybe I've got this."

On the surface, Hugo and I had little in common. I was new to the neighborhood, not a parent, and not a homeowner.

I initially didn't know what to make of Hugo. Before I joined the Board in 2012, I had only heard ABOUT this well-known man in the neighborhood. I participated in an historic walking tour and visited his iconic blue Victorian and marveled to learn that he had hand-crafted the beautiful iron fence all along the property. Then, sometime after moving in I installed a low fence around my house, which I was very proud of. Shortly after I received a letter from the City saying that "someone" had reported to the City that the fence was not in the right location. I never asked if that was Hugo, but the nice woman at Code Enforcement described the neighbor as someone they hear from OFTEN.

However, shortly after I joined the Board and met Hugo, I learned that Hugo had "Left a special part of his heart" in Italy. I had spent a year there in college and we shared a love of all things Italian.

Hugo became my mentor and "sounding board" over the years as I gradually took on more and more responsibility on the Board. As much as some would say that Hugo is known for voicing his concerns, I always appreciated that Hugo was a good listener, team member and always appreciative of other people's work and volunteer time. Over the past 6 years, I like to think that I handled the items that enabled Hugo to focus on his vision and passion for the City. I planned the annual events. "Just tell me where to be when, Gina." was what Hugo used to say to me before every GPNA event since I came on the Board 6 years ago. I think Hugo and I made a good team.

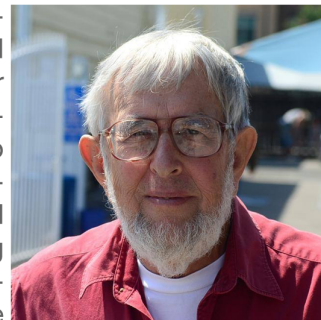
It has been by pleasure to carry the torch for this fine neighborhood association that Hugo & Cynthia Landecker and fellow neighbors started 44 years ago this month, in October 1973!

"Hugo's passion and dedication to the betterment of our neighborhood was a true gift. Hugo, you were one of a kind!"

Hugo Landecker's "Celebration of Life"

Amy Likover, Past President

On October 1st, approximately 300 people gathered at the Elks Lodge to honor long-time Gerstle Park resident and advocate, Hugo Landecker who died September 10 after a brief and valiant struggle against lung cancer. Hugo's wife Cynthia and daughter Julie were



by his side. Many, many of you were an important part of Hugo's life, and the family is grateful for that. Hugo was a GPNA founder and its Board Vice President, having served in every capacity with the GPNA since its initial days. He, along with a small group of neighbors, created the first neighborhood plan in the City, motivated to save beautiful Victorian houses, many of which were being demolished. A dependable Gerstle Park volunteer, Hugo established a French broom-pulling effort in our Open Space that spanned 20 years, and allowed trail access to the area. He drew the maps of the Gerstle Park Open Space found on our website.

The founder of San Rafael Group, a homeless reform initiative that reached 500 households and merchants daily, Hugo was also a founding member of San Rafael Heritage, our City's historic preservation organization, chaired by his wife. Hugo delighted in sailing, nature, artistic endeavors such as wrought-iron work, re-creating friezes from Pompeii, Victorian renovation, and re-modeling, cooking, and of course playing with his granddaughter Claire, and spending time with his beloved family.

At the October 1st event, I said that Hugo, "believed in the power of the individual to effect change, and learned how to best serve this historic and beautiful city. Results-driven, Hugo did not shy away from controversy. He knew deeply, as many learn late in life, that while it takes a village, we stand alone in what we believe." The GPNA Board is considering an appropriate memorial to honor Hugo Landecker's many contributions to our neighborhood. In memory, the Landecker family and the GPNA will be hosting the First Annual Hugo Landecker Broom Pull on Sunday December 3rd in Gerstle Park. Please see invitation on Page 3.



Join the neighborhood preparedness effort! The GPNA has 5 bins of emergency supplies and a 9-member radio (walkie-talkie) team, but we could do more. We encourage you to get trained by the Marin County program called, "READYmarin" and register for their Community Emergency Response Team training. Click here for more information (<http://readymarin.org/cert/>) You will also find a helpful page called, "Plan and Prepare." Consider joining our radio team that conducts monthly radio checks. READYgerstlepark also leads seasonal drills in the park with experts in preparedness. It's a good idea to regularly check the SFRD website Click here (<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/departments/fire/>) for safety information and tips.

Please Join the Landecker Family
and the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association for the

First Annual Hugo Landecker Memorial Broom Pull

Sunday, December 3

10:00 at the Redwood Grove in Gerstle Park

Continental breakfast will be served
All ages welcome!

Bring gloves, water to drink and wear long sleeved clothing



French Broom is an aggressive non-native species which is a fire hazard and which also makes Gerstle Park's trails impassable.

RSVP to: info@gerstlepark.com

In the event of inclement weather, we will move the event to December 10.

Treasurer's Corner

Ross Parmenter

Balance (as of 05/23/2017): \$5,898.70

Expenses: \$1,704.46

Income: \$1,419.19

Balance (as of 09/21/2017): \$5,613.43

MarinLink Balance: \$8,530.00



Albert Park Upgrade and Fundraising

The B Team, a grass-roots neighborhood group, is currently working on a fundraising campaign to change the face of Albert Park. Have you noticed that the benches along B St. are gone? We are making progress! In the next couple months you should see the sculpture relocated to the Falkirk Cultural Center grounds and a sign that tracks donations. Bids for construction of the project will open in early 2018. The goal is to break ground in early Spring 2018. The City of San Rafael has allocated \$610,000 to renovate the playground area, (funded by Measure A and Parkland Dedication.) The B Team has agreed to raise \$100,000 more to meet the design budget. The park design includes a new walkway from B St. to the community center, a safety fence, bathrooms, universally accessible play equipment, picnic tables, and much more. The deadline to raise the \$100,000 is Dec. 30, 2017. You can contribute to the improvement of your neighborhood and donate now! Donate online by credit card: www.livelifelocally.org/albert-park-playground-donations Donate by mail or in-person by check, payable to City of San Rafael-Albert Park Improvement Project, San Rafael Community Center 618 B Street, San Rafael, CA 94901. Donations are tax-deductible.



New Sidewalk Repair Ordinance and Cost-Sharing Plan

Excerpts from the Marin IJ, October 3, 2017

“On Monday October 2, 2017 the San Rafael City Council unanimously approved a one-year pilot sidewalk repair program that allows for homeowners to recoup partial costs for concrete repairs and full coverage on most tree work, gutters and simple pavement shaving. The compromise plan, which likely kicks off in January if final approval takes place later this month, is thought to be the only sidewalk repair cost-sharing program in Marin, city officials said Monday. The cost-sharing program, first unveiled in June, was in tandem but separate from the first reading of a city ordinance that clearly places responsibility for care and maintenance of sidewalks on adjacent property owners — along with liability to homeowners if the work is not done and there is an accident or injury. City officials said eight of 12 other jurisdictions in Marin already have ordinances in place to that effect.

A second reading of the ordinance and unanimous vote occurred Oct. 16th.

Under the pilot program, the city would reimburse homeowners for half the cost of concrete pavement repairs up to \$2,000, or a maximum of \$1,000 per job. “The vast majority of repairs are in the \$1,500 to \$2,000 range,” said Public Works Director Bill Guerin. If that number proves untenable during the first year of the pilot program, it can be adjusted, he said. Most tree-related costs, such as root shaving or even removal, would be borne by the city. The city would also cover curb and gutter repairs up to \$4,000 per job, and simple sidewalk shaving to even out the pavement surface.

To apply, homeowners need to get a city inspection of the repairs needed, and then arrange for the work to be done by a contractor who pays fair wage standards. Guerin said the city has a list of approved contractors, but homeowners who want to hire their own contractors may do so if the fair wage issue is addressed.

After the work is done and the contractor is paid, the homeowner may then submit a claim for reimbursement. Applications will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Some leeway will be allowed for hardship cases or senior citizens on fixed incomes who might not be able to afford the repairs, Guerin said. Phillips said he was in touch with a local bank that might be able to offer loans for sidewalk repairs to city residents enrolled in the program.

Gina Silvestri, president of the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association, said she was concerned that there were no provisions for a tree ordinance in any of the documents approved Monday. Guerin said he was hoping to create a separate tree ordinance by the end of the year.

Such an ordinance would address responsibilities and guidelines for care and maintenance of street trees, and related information on compatible plantings.

“Our big concern is that you can’t talk about sidewalks until you’re talking about trees,” she said. “The tree piece is really important to us. We’re a tree-lined neighborhood — that’s why everyone loves us; that’s what we’re known for.”

Planning & Development Committee

Tom Heinz

The GPNA Board has created a new committee, the Planning and Development Committee, to take up the review of city development plans in Gerstle Park, which was previously performed by Hugo Landecker. The committee will advise the board with recommendations. The Board may accept or revise the recommendations and pass them onto the City of San Rafael. Neither the Board nor the committee has any regulatory powers. The committee had its first meeting Thursday, Sept. 28 to establish its procedures. Committee members include Board member Tom Heinz, Amy Likover, Lori Schifrin, Tom Kloos, Emese Wood and Dolores Manuel. Tom and Lori will co-chair the committee. If you have an interest in a planning question about a specific project, please contact info@gerstlepark.com



GPNA Calendar

- October 19** — Monthly Board Meeting
- October 31** — Halloween House Decorating Contest
- December 10** — Winter Social @ Panama Hotel
- December 14** — Christmas Caroling

Board Members

- Gina Silvestri, *President*
- Joss Robertson, *VP & Corresponding Secretary*
- Nadia Silvershine, *Recording Secretary*
- Ross Parmenter, *Treasurer*
- Carrie Marmesh, *Member*
- Tom Heinz, *Member*
- Denise VanHorn, *Member*



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+)

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

Renew your membership online at 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: \$ _____

Interested in volunteering for the following events or committees?

If so, please indicate with one or more checks.

Descriptions can be found on our website, www.gerstlepark.com.

COMMITTEES

- Ready Gerstle Park, Emergency Preparedness
- Community Tree Committee
- Open Space Committee – weeding of invasive species (French Broom) in neighborhood open space, Nov-May
- Food Committee - help with planning, preparation & service for GPNA events

EVENTS includes planning, decorating, helping day-of:

- Fall Picnic
- Christmas Caroling
- Garage Sale
- Halloween Decorating Contest (judging)
- Spring Fling Egg Hunt

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCACY IN SAN RAFAEL

- City Planning
- Homelessness issue
- Large Group Home Regulation(s) Committee
- Parks
 - Gerstle Park Albert Park
- Zoning enforcement

NEWSLETTER Quarterly

- Distribution
- Editing
- Graphic Design

PHOTOGRAPHY

WEBSITE

Welcome to the GPNA!