



Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Spring 2015

Spring Fling Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 28th at 10 AM sharp!
Gerstle Park Playground

Be there by 9:30 AM with your baskets, cameras, parents, grandparents and extended family to join us in this Gerstle Park ritual. Our Bunny will visit and pose for photos with the children. She will have already sprinkled the park with candy-filled



eggs and special prize notes. This is a fun activity for children 9 and under. Younger children (up to 5 years old) will gently search the playground while older children carefully comb the upper level of Gerstle Park, including the Redwood Grove. This very special Gerstle Park event is not to be missed. It's a great time to see old friends, meet new families, and renew your membership. Join us for fruit, coffee and pastry! Donations gladly accepted.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please contact info@gerstlepark.com

Your Opinion Matters:

Preserve, Re-Purpose the San Rafael Depot; Find a New Site for the Proposed new 5-Story Whistlestop Apartment Building, or Demolish the Station Building and allow Whistlestop to construct proposed building next to the SMART tracks?

The Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods will consider this issue at their next meeting. You are welcome to attend: 6:30-7:30 pm, Wednesday, March 18th, Al Boro Room in the SR Corporate Center. Weigh in on their website, <http://www.fsrn.info>

Treasurer's Corner *Ross Parmenter*

Balance (as of Jan 2015): \$3,521.45

Expenses: \$ 754.12

Income: \$6,054.70*

Balance (as of Mar 2015): \$8,822.03

*Our income reflects the partial funding (\$3,775.68) of a \$4,354 grant that GPNA was awarded by Marin County Community Services in January for Emergency Preparedness Supplies. MarinLink Fiscal Sponsorship

Sidewalk Project:

An Update for Property Owners

As we announced last year, GPNA has been asked by the San Rafael Department of Public Works (DPW) to work with them to develop a plan which will give Gerstle Park neighbors the most affordable option possible to replace broken sections of their sidewalks, as mandated by state law. The thought is that if we approach the project as a group, costs will be lower for individual property



owners. There will be a community meeting in early May to unveil this project. We hope to start sidewalk work this summer or fall. DPW has put together a list which includes 270 properties in our neighborhood with sidewalks needing repair. Additionally, at 23 of these locations, DPW plans to remove and replace one or more street trees. DPW will cover the cost of the removal & replacement of trees, permits related to sidewalk repairs and the cost of the curb & gutters where required.

In response to requests made by the Board to our membership at our GPNA Annual Meeting in January, we formed a committee which meets with the DPW:

GPNA Sidewalk Committee

Gina Silvestri: GPNA Vice President

Hugo Landecker: GPNA Board Member

Jennifer Maniar: Construction Project Manager

Drew Norton: Civil Engineer

Ray Moritz: Consulting Arborist

George Silvestri: Pro-Bono Attorney

We look forward to announcing the full details of our 2015 Sidewalk Improvement Plan at the community meeting in early May. Meeting details will be mailed, emailed and posted to www.gerstlepark.com in mid-April. In the meantime contact Gina Silvestri at info@gerstlepark.com with questions.

President's Column

Happy Spring Everyone! Songbirds and flowering fruit trees welcome another beautiful springtime to Gerstle Park. Our precious neighborhood experiences perennial springtime, but February and March are special times when plants and animals flourish from winter's rains.



Did you know that our own Gerstle Park has been named "The Best Park in Marin for 2015" from a readers poll by the North Bay Bohemian (bohemian.com)? Considering that Point Reyes National Park won in 2014, we are in august company! Thanks to our helpful volunteers on January 26th at Annual Meeting in the lovely Elks Lodge: Cindi, Joe, Judy, Tracy, Tom, Valerie, and the 2015 GPNA Board who welcomed nearly 100 of us for an update by the Mayor, Police Chief and City Emergency Preparedness Manager.

We welcome new Board members Ralph Holt and Joss Robertson. In February, we hammered out goals for 2015 and along our many events, we have our work cut out for us this year. Events and goals are posted on our website.

Please contact Leigh From info@gerstlepark.com, if you are interested in volunteering for the GPNA. There are many wonderful opportunities!

Hope to see you soon in Gerstle Park for the Spring Fling, and also around the town.

Yours truly,

Amy Likover

president@gerstlepark.com

415-450-1520

Home Repairs for Seniors

The San Rafael Mission Rotary Club provides free light home repairs/maintenance for San Rafael Seniors and people with Disabilities. The next workday is March 28 and March 20 is the deadline for getting on the list.

Please contact Susanne M. Karch, 415-233-3210, smkarch@gmail.com



Emergency Preparedness

Grant Received!

The GPNA emergency preparedness program, Ready-GerstlePark, received Marin County Service Grant for the purpose of funding emergency preparedness equipment. The \$4353.44 will go towards the purchase of a generator; medical, communications, and incident command post equipment. We are currently working with the San Rafael Emergency Management Manager, John Bruckbauer, to determine the best use of our funds. John is also helping us locate an appropriate storage facility for the equipment.

Get Ready Classes

Free training for before, during and after a disaster by the San Rafael Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) team. Get Ready is a county-sponsored training program that provides an overview of how to prepare your family and home. This is well worth your while!

Classes at the B St. Community Center, 618 B St, San Rafael, 94901

Please RSVP for one class. info@gerstlepark.com

Tues, April 21 - 7:00-8:30 pm OR

Sat, May 16 - 9-10:30 AM



CERT Classes

There's still room in these April 4th and 11th San Rafael CERT classes for those of you who wish to step beyond preparing your home and reach out to help your community in an emergency. This 2-day class from 8:30-5:30 is part of a national program will teach you skills to organize and help out in your neighborhood and community in the event of a large-scale emergency or disaster.

Register online, <http://readymarin.org/about/>

San Rafael Doings

Take a look at City Manager Nancy Mackle's, "Snapshot"

<http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/snapshot>

Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods – all kinds of interesting news:

<http://www.fsrn.info>

Neighborhood Interview: Stacey Laumann and Tom Oblatz

Dotty Lemieux

Gerstle Park is well represented on San Rafael's seven-member Park and Recreation Commission. Tom Oblatz has served three years of a four-year term and Stacey Laumann began her first term in February.

Tom, a lifelong outdoor enthusiast and parent of two children, was drawn to serve because of the deteriorating condition that many of our parks and the opportunity to help guide the future direction of parks for the benefit of the whole community.

For Stacey, a city planner by training and a mom who uses the City's parks and childcare programs, it was the chance to "engage many more residents in our city's services, which would contribute to a more interesting and diverse city for all of us to enjoy."

Tom enjoys interacting with City staff, other Commission members and the public; Stacey likes that the Commission works with many areas of cultural life beyond parks, such as community activities and public art. Tom has been involved in many projects. He is pleased with the open space adjacent to the Loch Lomond Village development for its public access and amenities. He's looking forward to the completion of the Terra Linda Community Center swimming pool and associated building, and feels the new project planned for Beach Park by Terrapin Crossroads "is exciting and could well be an example for other parks."

Stacey as the "newbie" hasn't had a chance to get her feet wet, but has spoken out on many projects as a citizen, particularly supporting the use of Albert Park for the Pacifics baseball team, and she now looks forward to working for increased city maintenance and care of Albert Park. She would like to see San Rafael's share of Measure A funding used initially for deferred maintenance and later on, as "an investment in modernizing a few downtown parks to invite more civic outdoor uses for all ages."

Tom hopes to see the nearly \$400,000 share of Measure A funds used for "projects that residents champion and build support for in their neighborhoods" and would encourage in-kind contributions, volunteer labor and sponsorships to beef up the funding and "maximize the benefit to residents of San Rafael."



Tom feels he has brought a "studied objective voice" to the Commission with his priorities for cost containment and public safety. His dream project is one "in which neighbors and the city work together to design and implement a project that serve the needs of a diverse group of users in a fiscally responsible way."

Stacey, although still new to the Park Commission, is "a strong believer in the importance of community service" and looks forward to contributing "to the health and vibrancy of my City." As for the sensitive subject of the impact of the homeless on parks, Tom acknowledges that the closure of Boyd Park has put greater demands on Albert Park but generally feels the City has been doing as much as it can to deal with the homeless population's impact. He also would consider more public restrooms in parks as a way to reduce the impact. When asked how he felt about a dog park in Central San Rafael, Tom said, "Great idea! Let's see dog owners come to the Commission and help create a dog park."

Both invite residents and the business community to learn more about all San Rafael's boards and commissions, and urge individuals to apply when openings occur to "get involved and help San Rafael remain a great place to be." They encourage everyone to find out more about San Rafael's government by going to www.cityofsanrafael.org

Open Space & Encampment Report

Hugo Landecker

French Broom has been cleared from the entire NE section of the open space, and volunteers are working on the SE section. The ground is getting very dry and pulling broom results in many plants breaking off. These will sprout new growth. With late onset of rains we started about 2 months late and now might have to stop a month or two early. There are two homeless encampments in this area that have been hanging on for at least a month. There have been multiple calls to PD.

Corner of 1st & Welch: Warning to Illegal Dumpers

We've asked nicely on Nextdoor.com, we've posted signs, we've asked DPW to clean up your ratty sofas and smelly mattresses that you leave on our lovely Gerstle Park street corner. But you haven't gotten the message. So, here's fair warning: Together with SRPD, the property owner, manager & tenants of 27 Welch, GPNA is happy to tell you this:

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA! And don't be surprised if your photo appears on neighborhood social media sites one day very soon!!

Report Illegal Dumping to
SRPD at 485-3000

RESPECT
gerstle park

Learn more at
GerstlePark.com

Schools Report

Kearsley Higgins

The expansion continues at Short School as it moves toward becoming a traditional K-5 elementary school. Next year, the school will add 4th grade and require two more classrooms. Two Portables will be installed near the corner of Clorinda Avenue and Marin Street where there is currently a play structure. The play structure will be removed and the temporary buildings will be installed in Mid-June and will be completed by mid-August.

This fall San Rafael City Schools will propose a bond measure that would provide the needed funding for Short School's future. If the bond passes, there are designs in progress for a complete rebuild of the school. There will be opportunities for community input as the process moves forward, but construction would likely start in the summer of 2016. The rebuild would utilize the space on the small lot more effectively and would provide the facilities to match other schools in the district. With or without the bond, Short School will need to house the same number of students. The bond funded rebuild would help make Short a true asset to our community and a much more appealing option for neighborhood children.

GPNA will be providing information about community meeting and chances for neighborhood feedback as this process continues.

Meet the 2015 Board

Amy Likover, President
Gina Silvestri, Vice President
Ross Parmenter, Treasurer
Rupi Buttar, Recording Secretary
Josselyn Robertson, Corresponding Secretary
Leigha From, Volunteer Coordinator
Hugo Landecker, Liaison to Planning, Open Spaces,
San Rafael Group
Ralph Holt, Member
Contact us at 415-450-1520 or info@gerstlepark.com

Board meetings alternate between 2nd Thursday at 7 pm monthly, and Saturday mornings. Contact info@gerstlepark.com to confirm date, time and place.

2015 Calendar

March 28: Spring Fling
June 20 – Garage Sale
August 4 – National Night Out
September 20 - Annual Picnic, 4-7 PM
October 31: Halloween House Decorating Contest
December 7– Winter Social
December 10 – Neighborhood Caroling
(Rain date Dec 17)

Spring Fling!



Sat. March 28th
10 AM sharp!
Gerstle Park Playground

egg hunt
for kids under 9 yrs.

prizes
contests

don't be late!



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

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
- Membership Committee – promotion, organization and staffing membership tables at events
- Open Space Committee – weeding of invasive species (French Broom) in neighborhood open space, Nov-May

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!