



# Gerstle Park

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Spring 2016



### Spring Fling Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 19**

**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 for set-up, egg coloring, serving, and cleanup would be most appreciated!** Please contact:

[info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com)

### GPNA Tree Committee

Since January 2014 we have been talking with the City about the condition of our neighborhood sidewalks, which goes hand-in-hand with the topic of street trees. Now, as announced at the Annual Meeting in January we plan to form a separate committee to take a closer look at the street trees of Gerstle Park, including their history, age, care & maintenance and replacement recommendations when required. The GPNA Tree Committee includes several expert GPNA member volunteers including an urban forester/consulting arborist, a naturalist and a civil engineer. Stay tuned - we look forward to hosting a neighborhood event later this year to report to everyone on our findings. For more information, contact Gina Silvestri at [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com).

### Annual Picnic

**Save the Date - 9/18/16**



We've booked a fabulous band for our annual picnic, Todos Santos. Check them out, and save the date: Sunday, September 18th, 4-7 pm.

<http://www.todossantostheband.com>



## President's Column

When I have an hour free, I go to my favorite Gerstle Park Open Space hillside to pull invasive plant species. This marks the third year, and having worked this same small area, the results are that the mosses, ferns, wildflowers and bees have returned. Delicate yellow native buttercups are blooming, and maybe next year, the pink shooting star flower will grace our Open Space. Contact us if you enjoy nature and would enjoy cultivating your own part of the hillside.



The GPNA schedule lists wonderful events for you and the neighbors. Join us! The annual Easter egg coloring and candy hunt in March, the mega Garage Sale in June, National Night Out in August, our Annual Picnic in the Park in September.

We had an outstanding annual meeting at the Elks Lodge in January. Please see our website for the "Year in Review" video and meeting minutes. With an 8 member Board, we spent a morning considering the year's priorities.

2016 Board Goals:

1. Parks - Support and facilitate improvements in Albert and Gerstle Parks, the open spaces and the creek.
2. Crime & Safety: Continue efforts of the Crime and Safety Transparency Initiative (subcommittee), so that residents feel safe in our neighborhood.
3. Sidewalks: Continue discussions with the city and the community on sidewalk safety.
4. Street Trees: Establish GPNA committee to study street trees of Gerstle Park.
5. Emergency preparedness: Continue the READYgerstlepark efforts with drills, classes, and organization.
6. Increase volunteerism: Continue to foster volunteerism among our members.

Let us know if you would enjoy helping us accomplish this very ambitious agenda.

See you around the neighborhood!

Amy Likover

Contact: [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com), Amy 415-450-1520

## Short School Report



**Kearsley Higgins, GPNA Schools Liaison**

San Rafael City Schools is continuing its work developing a plan as to how to use the funds they will start receiving from the two bond measures approved by voters this past November. The School Board met in early January to discuss an implementation plan for all the schools in the district. The plan has not yet been approved, but currently it shows the first construction work beginning this summer at Davidson. The rebuild of Short is currently set for summer 2017 and the rebuild of Laurel Dell would not begin until summer 2019. These schedules could change, as the plan has not yet been approved. When Short and Laurel Dell are rebuilt, the students will have to relocate for at least one school year to a yet to be determined space.

Short will have its first 5th grade class next year, but there will be no more portables added to the campus. Next year they will limit the incoming kindergarteners so that there will be enough classrooms for all grades until the new school is built.

The GPNA continues to push for community engagement as the school design and construction process moves forward.

## Planning Update

**Hugo Landecker**

Plans have been submitted to the City to replace the home at 105 Greenwood Ave. The current home has many problems, and it appears demolition is in order. The nearby neighbors have had a meeting about this project. Another project is on Ross Terrace which is accessed from the west end of Clayton Street. It used to terminate at a stairway to Ross Street. The stairway was declared as being unsafe by the City years ago and never replaced. There are two vacant land parcels on Ross Terrace both adjacent to each other and under common ownership. Proposed is a new single family home on each parcel and a lot line adjustment.

## Treasurer's Corner

**Ross Parmenter**

Balance (as of 11/12/2015): \$7,181.56

Expenses: \$3,344.65

Income: \$2,435.00

Balance (as of 02.29.2016): \$6,271.91

**Note:** There is no longer any balance being carried in the GPNA Treasury of the \$3,775.68 Marin Link Grant funds. All funds have been allocated for the purchases of GPNA Emergency Preparedness Supplies.

# Neighborhood Interview

## Pub Owners Alex and Lisa Stricker

By Dotty LeMieux



I catch up with the busy new owners of the State Room, formerly the Broken Drum on 4th St., just after the lunch rush. Alex and Lisa Stricker have had a lot on their plate in the past three years. Although they've lived in San Rafael for ten years, they made the move to Gerstle Park just three years ago. At the same time, they purchased and renovated the old Flatiron Bar at 724 B Street, had a new daughter, and recently purchased and renovated the State Room Brewery. The Strickers are equally invested in making these two bar/restaurants successful, and from all appearances they have done so.

The State Room has been transformed into a modern welcoming space, with clean lines, an open feel and a new menu, in the style of a "Gastro pub." It used to attract a narrow spectrum of customers, but is now filled with people all ages and tastes. The day I was there, there were families with children, young sports enthusiasts and a variety of "ladies who lunch," very much in evidence. Two games played on the TVs while jazz piano music set the ambiance. I enjoyed a lunch of sautéed shrimp with garlic and chili flakes and glass of their very good house Chardonnay.

The Flatiron has been upgraded as well, blending a vintage sports bar feel with modern touches, a menu with an amazing array of burgers, salads, appetizers and sandwiches, and an extensive happy hour menu. It is now truly more than a sports bar, although the sports theme is definitely still its biggest draw.

Lisa says, after they found the perfect rental in Gerstle Park, they were ready for their new enterprise as bar/restaurant owners, and someday hope to be able to buy in the neighborhood. "It has always been a dream of mine to own a restaurant," says Alex.

"And now I have two. One day I hope to have an upscale cocktail bar as well." For the present time though, they are busy enough running two thriving pub/restaurants and raising a young child. Before acquiring the two local establishments, Alex owned the Triumph skate shop in downtown San Rafael and Lisa worked as a childcare provider and in nutrition. "I always had something to do with restaurants," says Lisa, "but never on the management side." The two are constant presences in their new businesses to make sure it runs smoothly. One thing Alex and Lisa miss is having more time to spend with their daughter and their two beagles, Charlie and Newman." We welcome the Strickers to Gerstle Park!

## Mahon Creek

Amy Likover



Are you interested in the restoration of Mahon Creek to aid flood absorption? Members of READYgerstlepark have walked along our neighborhood creek with Dean Allison of the DPW. He recommended establishing a group called "Friends of Mahon Creek." Contact us if you can take a leadership role in restoring this community resource.

*NOTE: As we go to print on this newsletter, we learned of the sudden passing of Mr. Allison on 3/4/16. Many of you met Dean at the Annual Meeting. He collaborated with our neighborhood projects in the spirit of public service and will be greatly missed.*

## READYgerstlepark

The GPNA gratefully received about \$4000 from Marin County to equip the neighborhood in case of an emergency. We own two generators, four bins of medical supplies, tools, nine 2-way radio sets and other equipment. Neighbors near our park have stepped up to house the equipment, and we've recruited a cadre of radio communicators. Please contact us if you'd like to be part of this essential network. Stay tuned for neighborhood preparedness drill postings.



## Crime and Safety Transparency Initiative

A group of interested residents meet regularly as a Board committee to discuss issues of crime, safety and crime reporting. An ex-officio member is SRPD officer, Cprl. Scott Ingels. During our first meetings, we laid out suggestions for simplifying the PD website to make information more accessible. The committee will present a list of suggestions to the Board, and then to the City to make the B St. Corridor (including Safeway, the 7-11, Albert Park and the Community Center) safer and a magnet for neighborhood activities. We anticipate holding a Community-City meeting about these safety issues.

## 2016 Board

Amy Likover, President  
Gina Silvestri, Vice President  
Joss Robertson, Corresponding Secretary  
Nadia Silvershine, Recording Secretary  
Ross Parmenter, Treasurer  
Hugo Landecker, Member  
Ralph Holt, Member  
Carrie Marmesh, Member

## 📅 GPNA Calendar

GPNA Board meetings take place monthly, with the exception of July and December. Contact [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) for times and location.

**March 19** – Spring Fling, Gerstle Park  
**June 18** – Neighborhood Garage Sale  
**August 2** – National Night Out  
**September 18** – Annual Picnic  
**October 31** – Halloween House Decorating Contest  
**December 8** – Christmas Caroling, rain date 12/15  
**December 12** – December Social, Panama Hotel  
**January 23** – Annual Meeting

## San Rafael Information

Take a look at City Manager Jim Schutz's, "Snapshot".  
<http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/snapshot>  
Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods – all kinds of interesting news  
<http://www.fedsrn.org>  
City of San Rafael Code Enforcement  
[http://acm.cityofsanrafael.org/Government/Community\\_Development/Code\\_Enforcement/Complain](http://acm.cityofsanrafael.org/Government/Community_Development/Code_Enforcement/Complain)  
City of San Rafael Police Department, (415) 485-3000  
City of San Rafael Fire Department, (415) 485-3307

## Sidewalk Improvement City will ask for YOUR OPINION very soon! Gina Silvestri

Property owners are in a "holding pattern" as we await further news on Sidewalk Repair Policy from the City of San Rafael. GPNA received the following update from SR Director of Public Works Dean Allison on Feb 25th:

*"As many of you know, the City of San Rafael does not currently have a formal sidewalk maintenance policy or budget. Sidewalk improvements compete with street improvements, potholes, curb and gutter maintenance, and ADA accessibility improvements. The City Council asked staff to research the extent of the problem in San Rafael, best practices and what other cities do to address this issue, maintenance and replacement techniques, as well as policy and funding options for solving this problem. Staff received some initial feedback from the City Council and plans to conduct community meetings to get your input on the various elements of a formal sidewalk maintenance policy and procedures. Our goal is to get community input and establish a policy so construction can begin before the next rainy season. We will be in touch with you within the next month to set up a meeting with your neighborhood association. If you have questions, please email: [richard.landis@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:richard.landis@cityofsanrafael.org)."*



**Spring Fling!**



**Sat. March 19th**  
**10 AM sharp!**  
**Gerstle Park Playground**

egg hunt  
for kids under 9 yrs.  
prizes  
contests  
*don't be late!*

 **Gerstle Park**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



# Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Annual Membership Form

*Membership year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>*

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](http://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!