

# Gerstle Park

## Neighborhood Association

Summer 2010



### It's Garage Sale Time!

It's summer, it's June and in the Gerstle Park neighborhood that means it's Garage Sale time. **Mark your calendars, Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> is the date from 9am-3pm.** I'm sure you can find plenty of items in the garage or around the house you've been looking forward to parting with and make a little money.

Each participant will receive a yard sign and be included on our neighborhood map which highlights each address and a few major items for sale. The map will show shoppers outside our neighborhood who is selling what and where the sale is located. We also advertise in the IJ and run Craigslist ads and hang event posters around the neighborhood. This event is our neighborhood association's largest fund raiser of the year. Any monies left over go to help fund the newsletters, the website, Spring Fling egg hunt and the annual picnic we provide at no charge. So please support the GPNA and register for this fine event by filling out the form below.

Registrations must be received by Monday June 14<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup> you can pick up your yard sign at the home of Jenny Tonyes at 45 Wolfe Avenue (near Antonette) between 9am & 8pm. After the sale please return the signs back to 45 Wolfe Avenue so we can use them again next year. If you have any questions you can contact Jenny Tonyes at 415.785.4924 or via email at [jen@jentonyes.com](mailto:jen@jentonyes.com).

### Dinners for Eight

Want a better way to get to know people in your neighborhood? The Dinners for Eight program is a wonderful way for members and friends of the Gerstle Park Neighborhood to get to know each other better. Often, as we are rushing to and from work and meetings, we don't take time to really get to know others in our community. This program provides that opportunity. Neighbors make a safer neighborhood and they are essential in ensuring the safety and security of you and your home.

There is still time to sign up for this seasons Dinners for Eight as a single, or a couple. Volunteering as a host for one dinner, you will provide the entree at your home. As a guest, you will be assigned by the host one food item to bring to the host's home.

If you are interested in hosting or attending one of these events or for more information please contact Suzan Dexter at [suzandex@yahoo.com](mailto:suzandex@yahoo.com).

### 2010 GPNA Garage Sale Registration Form

Complete this form and return it with your check for \$20, payable to GPNA and marked "Garage Sale" to:  
GPNA, Attn: Garage Sale, PO Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am holding a sale. Please include these items on the map/address (list 4-5 items):

I would like to make a donation to the GPNA. My check is enclosed.

I would like to sign up for the garage sale & renew my 2010 membership for \$30.

**Forms are due Monday, June 14, 2010!!**

## Spring Fling

The annual Spring Fling egg hunt in Gerstle Park on April 3<sup>rd</sup> was enjoyed by many of our neighbors and their children. Here are the smiling faces of the winners of the egg hunt and jelly bean contests.



### Golden Egg Winners

Trevor Krumrey, age 5 and  
Carlos Eduardo Resendiz, age 6



### Jelly Bean Winners

Amy Rudolf, small jar and  
Brian Castillo, large jar

## Gerstle Park To Get A New Home

We seldom get a new home in our neighborhood. A new one was recently approved by the City at 134 Reservoir Rd.

There is an existing home that is in extremely poor condition that will be demolished. The new one will be approximately the same size and height and in the same location.



## Illegal Dumping

It has come to the attention of the GPNA of continuous dumping of trash and unwanted household items at the corner of 1st & Welch Street in our neighborhood. This is not a one-time problem, but an on-going issue that needs a solution.

The GPNA has contacted the Police, Department of Public Works and City of San Rafael Volunteer Program. Until a city approved solution is in place it is important to be aware of this area and problem and to contact the SRPD at 485-3000 if you notice someone dumping items at this or any other location in our neighborhood.

There are some creative ideas in the planning stage to help solve this problem, but we will need city approval and the city has expressed an interest in helping us. More details to follow as we learn them.

## Get Ready Marin!

In the wake of earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, it should be a wake-up call to us in California with regard to disaster preparedness.

On April 21st, Get Ready Marin held a public meeting at the B Street Community Center for Gerstle Park neighbors. The information provided was both informational and vital to deal with a future disaster.

For those of you who could not attend, the same information is available at [www.getreadymarin.org](http://www.getreadymarin.org)

## Newsletter Article Submission

Have you ever been reading the GPNA newsletter and come up with a great idea for an article? We would love to hear from you!

The board welcomes article submissions from all members in the GPNA. Please contact our president Bob Beyea at [bobbeyea@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbeyea@yahoo.com) with your article topic.

## Bee Problems?

It's that time of year and if you have sighted a swarm of honey bees, or have bees in your house, trees, or other structure, please read the following information before rushing to call a beekeeper or exterminator.

A beekeeper will arrive and assess the situation. The beekeeper will have a swarm capturing box, the specific design of which can vary considerably. In the case of tree (which is a common landing place for a swarm) and fence/interior swarm clusters, the beekeeper will typically jostle the swarm of bees into the box, which might take a few attempts (but is quite spectacular), and then will set the box up and leave it for the bees to congregate in until after sundown, when the beekeeper will return to close up the box and transport it.

Go to [www.sonomabees.org/swarm/index.html#ZONE5](http://www.sonomabees.org/swarm/index.html#ZONE5) for a list of who to call. They will come out and remove the swarm 24/7. Marin County is in Zone 5.

**DO NOT SPRAY THE BEES WITH ANYTHING.** Definitely not insecticide, but do not even spray them with water. **LEAVE THEM ALONE.** If you interfere with them, don't bother to call a beekeeper.

Ensure you are dealing with honey bees and not some other insect. A surprising number of people classify wasps and yellowjackets as bees because of their yellow coloration. If you see the insects coming in and out of either a (generally hardened) mud nest or a grey papery nest, they are not honey bees. Many summer and fall "swarms" are actually these insects and not honey bees.

In general, beekeepers do not deal with other insects - only honey bees, which are a beneficial creature. Please do not ask a beekeeper to deal with your wasp or yellowjacket problem - unless specifically licensed for pest control, a beekeeper cannot legally address pests for you - you need to contact a suitably licensed pest control operation for that.



## Marin Open Garden Project

Have a tree full of fruit? Marin Open Garden Project sends out volunteer harvesters to make sure that no fruit goes to waste and who will clean up the fallen fruit for you. You get to keep a share of the fruit that you want and they will deliver the remainder to local agencies helping people in need such as the Ritter Center, Canal Alliance and Next Key Center.

Send an email to [harvest@opengardenproject.org](mailto:harvest@opengardenproject.org) with your name, address, email address, telephone number, type of fruit, and they will contact you to set up the harvest. What a great way to share in the bounty!

Marin Open Garden Project's signature project is the establishment of weekly meetings of backyard gardeners to exchange excess fruit, vegetables and other goodies from their gardens. This season's Saturday morning gatherings will be held in Mill Valley (Boyle Park), San Anselmo (Town Hall Lawn), San Rafael (Sun Valley Park) and other towns in Marin County beginning June 5th. To find out more about the Open Garden program go to [www.opengardenproject.org](http://www.opengardenproject.org) or email [contact@opengardenproject.org](mailto:contact@opengardenproject.org) or call 415.419.4941.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

GPNA Garage Sale - *Sat. June 19<sup>th</sup>*

Dinners for Eight - *Sat. August 21<sup>st</sup>*

GPNA Picnic - *Sat. September 18<sup>th</sup>*

Halloween Decoration Contest -

*Sun. October 31<sup>st</sup>*

# Birds of a Feather

They do flock together, forty or fifty of them in three big, leafless trees outside our door. At 6:30 in the morning we go with our dogs for their morning walk. And on most mornings we are greeted by a cacophony of caws from above, which signal the crows' greetings. Either that or they are scolding us for disturbing the morning quiet.



We often stand and watch as one them turns his attention to a crow in a neighboring tree and scolds loudly, only to be answered in like fashion by the recipient. Then, singly and in small groups the crows fly out of the trees to explore the neighborhood.

We enjoyed the neighborhood turkey before his unfortunate demise, but his was a limited repertoire, attacking the cars that drove on Bayview Street. The crows are everywhere, alone or in small groups, searching the streets and sidewalks for snacks. They are wonderful scavengers, cleaning up food scraps that people discard. And they keep the insect population under control, for insects, together with nuts and seeds from the trees, are their principal diet.

It is said that communities in Western Japan are overrun with large crows who threaten children and small pets for food. Our crows are a friendly bunch, however. They animate the neighborhood and entertain us with their curiosity and bold behavior. A recent book is titled "Crow Planet." The author, Lyanda Lynn Haupt, describes her study of crow behavior, and the interesting role of crows in history and legend. It has enhanced my enjoyment of our noisy, busy winged neighbors.

## 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>*

INDIVIDUAL: One Voting Member - \$15/year (\$10 seniors age 65+)

HOUSEHOLD: Two Voting Members - \$20/year (\$15 seniors age 65+)

NEW MEMBER     RENEWAL

CHECK     CASH

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

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

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

Do you wish to receive our quarterly newsletter via email instead of home delivery?     YES     NO

Would you like to be included on our email distribution list?     YES     NO

Are you interested in volunteering with the GPNA?     YES     NO