



# Gerstle Park

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Summer 2014

# 2014 GPNA Garage Sale!

## Saturday, June 14th from 9AM - 2PM

### Option #1: **GARAGE SALE AT YOUR HOME (\$20)**

Registration includes: Use of (1) yard sign, inclusion of your sale on the official GPNA Garage Sale Map w/highlights of a few of your major sale items, advertisements on Craigslist & the Marin IJ classifieds, and on posters throughout the neighborhood. NOTE: Yard signs will be available for pick up at 109 1st Street either Thurs. 6/13 from 6:30pm-8:30pm or Fri., 6/14 from 3:30pm- 8:30pm (Stacey: tel 272-2073). After the sale (no later than Sunday AM) please return the signs back to the same address for reuse next year.

### Option #2: **GARAGE SALE AT GERSTLE PARK (\$30)**

For just \$10 more, you can be guaranteed sales! You will be assigned a minimum 10' x 10' area in Gerstle Park. Buyers will be able to shop multiple sales in one stop. Ideal for Gerstle Park neighbors who don't get a lot of foot traffic on Garage Sale Day. Large signage will be posted outside Gerstle Park (no need to pick up a yard sign), in addition to mention of your items on Map & advertising on Craigslist + Marin IJ. *Apply early—first come first served, space is limited. Tables not provided.*

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

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

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

**Please list 4-5 key sale items:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION:**

<b>At your home</b>	<b>\$20</b> _____
<b>In Gerstle Park</b>	<b>\$30</b> _____

**RENEW YOUR ANNUAL GPNA MEMBERSHIP: :**

<b>2014 Regular Membership</b>	<b>\$20</b> _____
<b>2014 Membership - SENIOR</b>	<b>\$10</b> _____

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

Complete and return form and check to: GPNA, Attn: Garage Sale, PO Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915

**Registration also available online: [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)**

IMPORTANT:  
For guaranteed inclusion in Garage Sale MAP registration must be received by Tuesday, June 10th



## President's Column

Summer is here and the Gerstle Park Neighborhood is gorgeous. The trees provide welcome shade and floral fragrance grace our gentle breezes.

We had an excellent Spring Fling Egg Hunt with a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny, egg coloring, refreshments and prizes. A great time was had by all!

Summer brings along our very special all-neighborhood Garage Sale, June 14. Participate as a seller and buyer, at individual homes or in Gerstle Park. This is our largest fundraiser, and an excellent time to greet your neighbors.

A recent Marin IJ Editorial underlined the importance of neighborhoods. Join us to ensure that ours continues its vitality, beauty and purpose.

Twice yearly volunteers hand-deliver the free newsletter (Thank you!) to + 1000 households. Our e-newsletter reaches 450. While nearly 200 paying members is a respectable number, we'd like you all to enjoy all e-blasts and member benefits in this most active San Rafael neighborhood. Do your part and join or renew!

Planning issues affect all of us. If you wish to learn more about projects, such as proposed City ordinance changes and new/expanding businesses and projects, see the link below to receive agendas and updates.

Here's to an excellent summer, and see you around the neighborhood.

Amy Likover  
 GPNA President  
 president@gerstlepark.com, 450-1520

## Ongoing Thanks to GPNA Nature Preservers

We wish active GPNA member Mary Valente well as she and Phil downsize and change communities. Mary delivered newsletters and helped with social events, she also engineered the volunteer painting of our fence and the replanting of the green triangle at D Street/Wolfe Grade Rd. Janis Stitt, Amy Likover, and Diantha & Jim Bell will keep the plants watered.

Thanks as always to Hugo Landecker, Mitch Shandley, and Amy Likover who pulled invasive French Broom plants in the Open Space for the past 6 months. Hugo has led this effort for 20 years.

## Thanks and Farewell to Ilona and Dylan



### A Gerstle Park Institution is Sold

After 30 years of serving us scrumptious muffins and coffee (and a fantastic lunch menu), providing the friendly ambience that defines our neighborhood, and hosting many, many GPNA meetings, Muffin Mania owner Ilona Galante and her son Dylan have sold their business to start a new chapter in their lives. We are assured that new owner, Mr. Bret More, intends to keep the shop just as it is. Apparently, he likes Ilona and Dylan's neighborhood recipe as much as we do. Bye and best wishes, Ilona and Dylan, and thank you for everything!

## Short School Report

### Kearsely Higgins, GPNA School Liaison

GPNA continues to be a part of the development of Short School. We participated in the first meeting in a "master planning" process, which looks at the needs of Short and all school district sites. GPNA expressed that Short should be upgraded so its facilities and programs are as appealing as other schools in the district. We also voiced concerns about how the school would handle growing enrollment and its effect on parking and safety. Overall, we are optimistic that the district is working with our community and is committed to improving the facilities at Short School.

Expansion plans for Short are moving forward. This summer, the district will add a large multi-purpose portable structure on west side of the parking lot. Several classroom portables will be added near the Clorinda/Marin Street corner in summer of 2015. By fall of 2016, Short will have more than 200 students and will be a standard K-5 elementary school. We have been assured by the district that these structures will be a temporary short-term solution to deal with immediate enrollment needs. The master plan work will define the long-term plan. Sun Valley School is the designated neighborhood elementary school for Gerstle Park West of D Street and Laurel Dell for Gerstle Park East of D Street. Short will continue to be a school of choice, along with all of the other schools in San Rafael pending space availability.

## Treasurer's Corner

January 31 - March 31 2014  
 Income - \$2200.51  
 Expenses - \$1142.85  
 Balance - \$4669.45  
 Current Balance (June 3, 2014) \$4632.96

## Sidewalk Improvements

The San Rafael Dept. of Public Works (DPW) painted numerous sidewalks west of D Street to indicate damage. Red marks indicate "trip" hazards and white marks indicate portions to be replaced.

On May 14, 2014, the GPNA hosted a public meeting with the DPW to look at causes of and possible solutions for the damage. It was explained that under state law, property owners are responsible for the upkeep of adjacent sidewalks. Quite a few years ago, the City took care of this, but not anymore. Over 40 questions were asked by property owners and were answered by the Director of Public Works, Nader Mansourian. The discussion was lively, informative and very comprehensive. There was public interest in several options:

1. Partnering with the DPW in a cost-effective manner to take advantage of a "group discount" with a designated contractor and each homeowner who chose to participate paid approximately \$240 per 6'x4' section of sidewalk. The City has agreed to remove the root problem and trees that cannot be saved and the curbs and gutters, where applicable, at no cost. The contractor would remove the old sidewalk and the contractor would then install the new sidewalk. The homeowner must discuss this with the Public Works Department on a case-by-case basis, and the homeowner will decide what is best.
2. Requesting the City budget for GP sidewalk improvements in the 2015 fiscal year budget. Some residents may pursue this option. Property owners whose sidewalks require improvement, according to City criteria for safety, have been contacted by the City. See the Gerstle Park map to determine if your trees or sidewalks are impacted:

[http://www.gerstlepark.com/gpna\\_joomla/attachments/article/59/GerstleParkSidewalks.pdf](http://www.gerstlepark.com/gpna_joomla/attachments/article/59/GerstleParkSidewalks.pdf)

As we receive more information on this topic from the DPW, we will add it to our website. Stay tuned!

## Composting Demo at Gerstle Park Garage Sale

Learn about recycling food waste at your home and receive free composting pails. Join a Marin Sanitary Service Recycling Coordinator and City of San Rafael Zero Waste Coordinator. They will answer all of your recycling questions.

**Marin Sanitary Service**

CONSERVATION – OUR EARTH, OUR MISSION, OUR JOB



## Ready GerstlePark Emergency Preparedness Class

Thursday, May 29

Class begins 6:30 PM sharp, ends at 8 PM  
San Rafael Community Center, 618 B St.

Taught by San Rafael Emergency Preparedness staff, the class will cover many important aspects of readiness:

1. Develop a family plan, evacuation checklist, and strategies to keep your family safe.
2. Shelter in Place Plan: prepare to survive in your home following a disaster for at least 72 hours, and preferably 5-7 days.

## Join the Ready GerstlePark Emergency Preparedness Committee

On April 29th about a dozen interested neighbors met at Muffin Mania to discuss the role trained leaders might have in disaster preparedness. There was great enthusiasm for organizing our neighborhood including having drills, enlisting block captains and organizing apartment buildings and blocks in case of an emergency. If this is your interest, join us!

Summer Meeting – Save the Date: Saturday June 28, 9 AM at Muffin Mania

## GPNA Volunteer Webmaster Needed!

Email [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) for details.

## Gerstle Park Neighbor – Meet Tamra Peters

*Director of the Resilient Neighborhoods Program*

**Q:** What is the Resilient Neighborhoods program?

**A:** People in Marin do their part to address Climate Change by reducing their own carbon emissions. Our role is to help families build resilience in their community by getting to know their neighbors and being prepared for disruptions like flooding, wildfires, earthquakes or other emergencies.

**Q:** How does it work?

**A:** The Program works by people joining an “EcoTeam.” Each household calculates its household carbon footprint, then takes actions that reduce household CO2 emissions by at least 5,000 pounds.

**Q:** How effective has it been?

**A:** So far 30 EcoTeams comprised of 160 households have reduced their CO2 emissions by a total of over 2,000,000 pounds! Most people don't realize that there are very simple things they can do that make a big difference. We are now written into the San Rafael General Plan because the City recognized how important citizen action is to meeting our climate goals.

**Q:** Why did you start the program?

**A:** I feel that Climate Change is the most important issue of our time. I was looking to empower people to do something about Climate Change, because people are frustrated about Washington not doing enough.

**Q:** How can I learn more?

**A:** For further information visit the website at: [www.resilientneighborhoods.org](http://www.resilientneighborhoods.org), or contact me at 415-457-7656 to join an EcoTeam. The program is free, fun, and rewarding.

## GPNA Calendar of Events

May 29 Ready Gerstle Park Class  
June 14 Neighborhood Garage Sale  
June 28 Ready Gerstle Park Committee Coffee  
August 5 National Night Out  
September 6 Annual Picnic, Gerstle Park  
October 31 Halloween Haunted House Contest  
December 8 Winter social, Panama hotel  
December 11 Neighborhood Caroling  
January 26, 2015 Annual Meeting  
Monthly Board Meetings: June 26, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18.  
Confirm date/place:  
[president@gerstlepark.com](mailto:president@gerstlepark.com) or 415-450-1520



## Open Space Issues: Call Police & Fire

The eyes of the community are the residents. The police cannot possibly patrol each open space area daily. The two part time Police Department Open Space Rangers are extremely busy. They need the eyes of the public. When you see something wrong – you need to call the police or the fire department. Too often hikers, bikers, dog walkers and runners who take the same route daily say, "Oh yea, that guy has camped there for months and nobody does anything about it". When asked if he/she called the police the answer is usually no. We have to involve ourselves. To ignore the problem makes you part of the problem and not the solution.

On May 18, there was a fire in the Open Space adjacent to Gerstle Park. The fire could have easily devastated our neighborhood. Thanks to the response from County firefighters, the fire was contained, but more than 50 Redwoods were charred. Evidence of camping materials was found in the area.

San Rafael City Ordinances prohibit camping and fires in our fragile Open Spaces, and this is critical to everyone's safety. Please call the police if you witness campers; it is the City's policy to remove campsites because of fire danger. When you call your identification will be never be revealed to the culprit. If you leave an anonymous call, the police and fire cannot get additional information that only you have. **San Rafael Police non-emergency number is 485-3000. Always call 911 if there is an emergency.**

## GPNA Board

Amy Likover, President  
Gina Silvestri, Vice-President  
Ross Parmenter, Treasurer  
Rupi Buttar, Secretary  
Leigha From, Member-at-large  
Hugo Landecker, Member-at-large  
Aliyya Mattos, Member-at-large  
Contact [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com)



# 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!