



# Gerstle Park

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Summer 2015

# 2015 GPNA Garage Sale!

## Saturday, June 20th 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., 6/18 from 6:30pm-8:30pm or Fri., 6/19 from 3:30pm- 8:30pm (Stacey: tel 272-2073). After the sale (no later than Sunday) please return the signs back to the same address for reuse next year.

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.

*Apply early—first come first served, space is limited. Tables not provided.*

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

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

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

**Please list Items for Sale or Description of Sale for map (15 words max):**

<b>GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION:</b>	
At your home	\$20 _____
In Gerstle Park	\$30 _____
<b>RENEW YOUR ANNUAL GPNA MEMBERSHIP: :</b>	
2015 Regular Membership	\$20 _____
2015 Membership - SENIOR	\$10 _____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____</b>	

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

*Happy Summer, Everyone!*

June is here, and along with her song comes a slower pace and hopefully more time with neighbors and family.

With the summer weather, several Department of Public Works (DPW) projects in Gerstle Park will take place: installation of five curb ramps at the corners of Grove/Lodge and San Rafael Streets along with a rebuild of the SW Gerstle Park corner wall to improve drainage issues. Two new catch basins and a new pipe will run across Lodge Lane and there will be drainage improvements at Grove/San Rafael Streets. Our Board filed a resolution with the DPW to maintain the historic bluestone wall, which the DPW will abide by.

On another construction issue, we thank the Sidewalk Committee for endorsing a reduced priced concrete bid in partnership with the DPW as an option to property owners who need to replace sidewalks. This summer, the committee will develop a cohesive Urban Forest Plan to replace those neighborhood street trees in question. See our website for more info.

The all-neighborhood GPNA Annual Garage Sale is just around the corner, June 20th. Our streets will become abuzz with great deals and friendly conversation. On August 4th, neighbors plan block parties for the Annual National Night Out event. Plan on attending the September 20th Annual Picnic in the Park, a potluck barbecue with great music and fun for the kids.

As always, emergency preparedness is in the forefront for the GPNA. Please read how to prepare your home, family and pets on [readymarin.org](http://readymarin.org). You can also prepare by enrolling in classes online. We had a great showing of neighbors at our May 16th Get Ready class. Let me know if you'd like to get involved in organizing your block in case of an earthquake etc.

Did you notice the new "No Dumping" sign on First/Welch Streets that the GPNA requested? There has been a subsequent and welcome decrease in dumping there. Get the word out – dumping is illegal in San Rafael, and dumpers may be fined \$500. Perpetrators can be apprehended if a photo with their face and license plate number is sent to us, which we will forward to the police.

Please welcome new Board member, Nadia Silvershine. She is particularly interested in local politics and maintaining our great quality of life in Gerstle Park. Our Board now numbers eight!

We appreciate your beautiful plantings and participation I look forward to seeing you around our lovely and inspiring neighborhood.

Yours truly,  
Amy Likover  
GPNA President

*See beautiful photos of  
Spring Fling egg hunt  
on our website.*

# What's Happening in San Rafael

Read our City Managers bi-monthly newsletter, Snapshot. You may sign up for automatic email delivery. Click [here](http://cityofsanrafael.org/citymgr-snapshot/may-28-2015.html) or see this link [cityofsanrafael.org/citymgr-snapshot/may-28-2015.html](http://cityofsanrafael.org/citymgr-snapshot/may-28-2015.html)

## Code Violations?

From time to time, the GPNA gets contacted by a resident who has a problem with a neighbor doing something that looks illegal with their property. A review of the Municipal Code will show if there is anything illegal. The Code can be easily accessed online by searching, "City of San Rafael Muni Code." If you don't have a computer, then call Code Enforcement at 415-485-3097. The next step is to file a Code Enforcement complaint in person at City Hall, third floor, or online <http://docs.cityofsanrafael.org/CommDev/code-enforcement/forms-and-handouts/code-enforcement-complaint-form.pdf>. Complaints are confidential, so the violator never knows who filed the complaint. We suggest that you don't file an anonymous complaint and request a call back about the findings or actions that were made.

Common complaints are about property line disputes, fence violations, tree removal and illegal construction. When in doubt, call Code Enforcement and they can advise you. They have the responsibility for enforcement of the ordinances contained in the Municipal Code.

## Treasurer's Corner

*Ross Parmenter*

Balance (as of 3/16/2015): \$8,822.03

Expenses: \$733.37

Income: \$640.43

Balance (as of 05/28/2015): \$8,729.09

Note: 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.



*No Dumping Sign  
on First & Welch*

# Great Opportunity to Fix Your Sidewalks

On May 20th, GPNA along with the San Rafael DPW unveiled details of the 2015 Gerstle Park Sidewalk Improvement Program, designed to offer property owners an affordable and streamlined process to replace broken sections of their sidewalks, as mandated by state law



(Streets and Highways Code section 5610).<sup>\*</sup> Full program details available now on [gerstlepark.com](http://gerstlepark.com). In a nutshell, if your property is on DPW's list of addresses listed on

our website, your options are:

- Sign up by July 31, 2015 to request a bid from our chosen contractor, Van Midde & Son Concrete (CA State License #676584). In addition to group pricing, the City will waive the Encroachment Permit Fee. The contract will be between you the property owner and Van Midde & Son. Work to begin in August 2015. All payments due within 7 days of completion. GPNA Sidewalk Improvement questions to Gina Silvestri - [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) or call (415) 716-0130.
- You do nothing. The City will do the work & the bill will be on your tax statement. Contractor fee will be higher than group pricing, Encroachment Permit Fee (\$246), and administrative fees will also be added to bill.
- You (or your own contractor) does the work. There is a required encroachment permit from City, specifications to follow, and inspections.

Again, full details available on [gerstlepark.com](http://gerstlepark.com). If you were unable to attend our Community Meeting on 5/20 at San Rafael City Hall, a video of the meeting is also on our website: [gerstlepark.com](http://gerstlepark.com). GPNA thanks Community Media Center of Marin for making this video possible!

*\*While we believe our statement is accurate as a general proposition, and is based upon our understanding of California Streets and Highways Code sections 5600-5618, we recognize that the facts of each case may vary, such as those involving damage to sidewalks caused by tree roots, and depending on whose trees are involved, etc., and therefore should be reviewed with competent legal counsel experienced with such matters. While GPNA is in no way seeking to give legal advice to anyone involved, we have made inquiries and tried to present information that we hope will be helpful to our neighborhood residents and property owners confronted with the sidewalk repair actions initiated by the City which affect our quality of life and property values. There is no San Rafael Municipal Code section regulating this subject, only State law.*

# GetReady Class

Seventeen neighbors gathered to learn about preparing for an earthquake, flood, wildfire and any number of disasters. If you missed this, attend another class, [readymarin.org](http://readymarin.org). We are organizing blocks for neighborly help in such cases, so please join us! Would you like to be CERT trained? Would you enjoy being a block captain or community emergency leader? Contact Amy, 415-450-1520.

# BioMarin Plans

On May 19, the pharmaceutical company, BioMarin, underwent a Design Review Board (DRB) of their formal permit application for a proposed new project: a three story 72,396 sq ft office building (NLB2) on parcel 1 and a Phase II expansion (LPG2) to the parking structure at 788 Lincoln Ave. with approximately 312 additional stalls on six levels, including 41 stalls on grade. In summary, the Board was generally supportive of the project design, but provided some comments and recommendations, particularly related to the design and architectural details for the new building, and voted to continue the review at their Tuesday, June 16 meeting. A staff report for that meeting will be available by June 12 on the website below. Additional DRB meetings (potentially), Planning Commission and City Council hearings will follow this scheduled DRB meeting at a later date. See [www.cityofsanrafael.org/meetings](http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/meetings) for a video of the meeting and the staff report. Work is also underway to prepare an Initial Study to determine if an EIR must be prepared or if a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration is warranted. If an EIR is needed, a Notice of Preparation will be issued for the EIR and allows for a 30-day comment period for scoping of the issues to be included in the EIR. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the EIR scoping during the review period.

# Eagle Scout Project in Gerstle Park

We thank San Rafael Parks Arborist Dave Davenport and members of Boy Scout Troop 101 for the lovely planting at the entrance of Gerstle Park. That's a weeping copper beech tree in the center of the "after" picture.

**BEFORE**

**AFTER**





# Parks Will Receive Upgrade by Measure A Funds

The GPNA submitted your suggestions for park improvements from the Annual Meeting, and we have received the good news that our playgrounds will be improved. In Albert Park, the play structure will be replaced in 2016-17 (\$50,000), for greater play value and usage. In Gerstle Park, the “primary play features” will be replaced in 2017-18, and the play area will be “invigorated,” (\$40,000) According to Carlene McCart, Director of Community Resources, “The neighborhood will be invited to participate in the design process and selection of the playground equipment.” There were 12 projects in San Rafael ranked highest by the Park and Recreation Commission. Of these, 8 will be addressed with Measure A funding in the next three years. Alternative funding is recommended for 2 of the projects. Future City Council consideration is recommended for 1 proposal.

## Gerstle Park Neighbor - Meet Dotty Lemieux

### *The Tree Lawyer*

My husband, urban forester, Ray Moritz and I have shared an office on Willow St. in Gerstle Park for about 7 years now. We love the friendliness of our neighborhood and all of Gerstle Park. Since we spend more time here than our home in Fairfax, it's a good thing we like it so much.



Usually I am profiling your neighbors and merchants for the GPNA Newsletter, but today it is my turn.

I'm the lady you see walking the two dogs, Frida, a Red Heeler mix and Babboo, Border Collie, Australian Shepherd mix. They would really love to see a dog park in this part of San Rafael, so their mom doesn't have to haul them to Larkspur or Novato, or even up to the Civic Center. I guess it's time to start attending Park and Recreation Commission meetings!

My legal specialty is neighborhood and tree law, which, as you can imagine, is a big thing in Marin, especially when Bay views are involved. And yes, I do a lot of work with my husband Ray on these issues. Another interest of mine is the Democratic Party and supporting local campaigns. We find it rewarding to share a workspace where we can bring our dogs and feel like a part of the community.

# Short School Report

## *Kearsley Higgins, GPNA Schools Liaison*

Summer is here and we've completed another school year. Short School continues to expand. Next year the school will include its matriculating 4th graders. To accommodate the new students, two portable classrooms will be added to the school grounds at the corner of Clorinda and Marin Streets where the playground is now. Construction will start in June and continue until mid-August. The district is continuing preparations for bond measures in this November's election.

This month the GPNA will be getting updates from the school district on the proposed upgrades that would be financed by these bonds. Later in the year, the school district will have public meetings about the bonds and upgrades they would support. For our area, the bond would likely support a complete (and much needed) rebuild of Short and a massive remodel of Laurel Dell. There would be significant upgrades to both Davidson and San Rafael High as well.

## GPNA Board

Amy Likover, President  
Gina Silvestri, Vice President  
Ross Parmenter, Treasurer  
Josselyn Robertson, Secretary  
Leigha From, Volunteer Coordinator  
Hugo Landecker, Liaison to Planning, Open Spaces, San Rafael Group  
Ralph Holt, Member  
Nadia Silvershine, Member

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

## 2015 Calendar

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 12/17)

Board meetings alternate between 2nd Thursday at 7 pm monthly, and Saturday mornings.

Contact [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) to confirm date, time and place.



# 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!