



Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Winter 2013

Upcoming Events

Winter Social

Monday, December 9th, 2013 6-8 PM
Panama Hotel, 4 Bayview St.

Complementary appetizers and hot apple cider! Thanks to GPNA Member/Panama Hotel Owner Dan Miller.

There will be a cash bar. It's time to renew old friendships & meet new neighbors. Join us! Adults only, please.

Holiday Caroling

Thursday, December 12th, 2013 6:30-8:30 PM
Where: Meet at Short School - Enter at Clorinda St. Gate
When: Meet at 6:30 PM, Depart at 7 PM
What: GPNA provides hot apple cider and songbooks
Bring: A dozen cookies to share and your own flashlight



We've dusted off the GPNA songbooks and invite you to join us serenading the neighborhood, led by the talented guitarist GPNA Webmaster Greg Barnett.

Caroling needs both carolers and an audience. Would you like to BE caroled? Email info@gerstlepark.com or call Gina Silvestri (716-0130) to be on the caroling route, or to suggest a neighbor we could contact who might like to be caroled. We ask is that you be at a window or door where we can see you enjoying our joyful noise.

Weather: If light rain, bring an umbrella and dress accordingly. If heavy rain, we'll reschedule following Wednesday, same time, same place. This is an especially great event for children, so bring them along! See you on December 12th!

2013 Annual Meeting



Monday, January 27th, 2014
6:30-8:30 PM
Historic Falkirk Cultural Center
1408 Mission at "E" Street
Special Guests: Mayor Phillips and Police Chief Bishop



Halloween Decorating Contest Results

We thank our local merchants for their generous donations and encourage you to support them.

- 1st Place:**
235 Marin St - Panama Hotel Gift Certificate
- 2nd Place:**
231 Bayview St - Marin Bocce Party
- 3rd Place:**
217 Bayview St - (4) Marin Symphony tix +
(1) Brushless Car Wash
- 4th Place:**
508 D St - Judy Bell Skin Care Massage & Facial
- 5th (tie):**
31 Clorinda - (3) Brushless Car Washes
- 5th (tie):**
12 Ross St - (2) Marin Symphony tix,
(1) Brushless Car Wash, and (2) New Century Chamber Orchestra tix

Honorable Mention(s):
Each were awarded \$10 Gift Certificates to
MUFFIN MANIA
41 Octavia, 165 Greenwood, 101 Marin, 421 D St,
23 Ross, 15 Marin, 151 Clark

GPNA thanks the following people for helping us with Halloween this year:

Bob Beyea, Cadet Girl Scout Troop 30681 & Troop Leader Brigette Waterbury, Leigha & Tom From, Cindi Hubbard, Linda Bellatorre, Amy & Joe Likover, Gina Silvestri



President's Column

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

Gerstle Park is adorned in autumn colors; moss and ferns are beginning to decorate our woods while the sun peeks through on another glorious Marin day. I hope this finds you and your families amidst preparation for year-end celebrations, for it is a time to pause and reconnect. We as neighbors can also reach out to those close to us and share our stories at this special time of the year.

Our Board enjoyed meeting many of you the late summer picnic in Gerstle Park. We had record attendance, a new barbecue format, and lots of fun for children and adults, including the live music of fantastic Savannah Blu Band. Thanks to everyone who participated. What a great event!

Did you get a glimpse of Halloween in Gerstle Park? Replete with spooky weather, our close-knit and historic neighborhood was transformed into a ghoulish graveyard. The trick and treaters loved the setting and generous neighbors were there at the knock of a door. Read on about the surprised and happy winners of the Halloween House decorating contest.

Join us Monday, January 27th for our Annual Meeting. We are very excited to announce that this year's meeting will be at NEW LOCATION, the historic Falkirk Mansion. This is always a special evening: a great time to meet new people and renew old friendships. We reminisce about our year and enjoy catching up with San Rafael news.

Are you interested in joining the Board? If so, now's the time! January 27th is when we elect new Board members. (See blurb for Board candidates.)

I hope to see you December 9th at our Winter Social. Your family is invited to our new 'old' event: caroling the neighborhood on December 12th. Join us in the many interesting and fun activities that make our neighborhood vibrant, cohesive and a very special place to live.

Amy Likover
president@gerstlepark.com
C: 415.450.1520

Annual Picnic Report

A great time was had by all on September 15th at Gerstle Park! Happy children, bouncing and giggling in the dragon jumpy loved showing off their glittering face paint. Tummies were filled by yummy gelato, the 'bring your own grill' and potluck buffet. It was a beautiful sunny day and there were lots of new and old friends for children to play with. Parents had fun too, with the live music, neighborly socializing and frisbee on the lawn.

The 2013 GPNA picnic was a great success. Close to 200 people attended. It would not have been possible without all the help from volunteers wanting to make it another successful neighborhood event.

Ross Parmenter, GPNA Board



Short School Report

Kearsley Higgins, GPNA School Liaison

Since its re-opening in 2010, Short School continues to evolve and grow. Currently, it serves Kindergarten - 2nd grade for the district at-large. While Gerstle Park's designated neighborhood schools continue to be Sun Valley (West of D St.) and Laurel Dell (East of D St.), Short School is another school option for families in our neighborhood. We are very grateful that principal, Pepe Gonzales, and the school district have included GPNA in visioning meetings to build a positive future for this school at the heart of Gerstle Park. We have two seats at these meetings and we will be keeping members informed about any proposed changes to the school that might impact the neighborhood.

Please contact info@gerstlepark.com if you would like to provide input.

On the Homeless Front

The Executive Directors of St Vincent's Dining Room and Ritter Center have resigned and will be replaced by interim directors during the search process.

The City of San Rafael has hired a Mental Outreach Person who will work closely with the SRPD and connect to agencies serving the needy. This new position is the result of challenging situations with people in crisis on SR's streets.

Hugo Landecker
San Rafael Group
clandecker@saber.net for more information about the homeless



What I Learned from Anna

How to Be a Good Neighbor

- Get to know your neighbors, their children and their pets.
- Say hello to everyone who walks by.
- Pay attention and help others in simple ways.
- Give biscuits to the dogs.
- Share your flowers.
- Be generous without conditions.
- Take care of what you have.
- Put trees and plants where they thrive.
- Allow for eccentricity.
- Stop and smell the roses.
- Respect boundaries.
- Bring beauty to the world so we can share it together.

In Memorium:
Anna Krueger
223 Marin Street
May 14, 1927 - Nov 4, 2013
Submitted by neighbor, Cindi Hubbard

Winter Planting

Join us this January-February-March for several planting and weeding work parties at the Antoinette/D St. Triangle.

Volunteer at info@gerstlepark.com



Neighborhood Interview

Welcome, Leigha and Tom Froms!

After a long search for the perfect home and neighborhood that would meet their needs, the Froms moved to Gerstle Park. They wanted to live in a real community and to be able to walk to town. Leigha and Tom enjoy all that the San Rafael has to offer, including the Art Walks, the Elks Lodge, Wild Care, Bocce, the Rafael Theater, great restaurants and music venues. All of this is within walking distance of their new home.

Leigha, a Realtor in Marin for over 33 years, is keenly aware of what the various Marin neighborhoods have to offer. She highly values the close-knit and neighborly atmosphere in Gerstle Park. She notes that neighbors have a genuine concern for each other's well being and especially likes that people greet her with true affection when they meet on walks with their dog, Bella. They are thrilled that there are so many places to hike. [See our webpage for Open Space hikes.] Tom being a mountain and street bike rider has many riding options.

Tom has been a general contractor for over 35 years. With his window specialty company, he brings the same caring commitment that Leigha brings to hers. Explains Leigha, "He believes in teaching not selling. His philosophy is first to help others obtain what they want and need." Tom is also a scuba diver, photographer, and is learning to play guitar. The Froms love to travel and plan to travel to music and art festivals.

Leigha joined in community activities right away, "I was involved in the Halloween decorating program. The neighbors' decorations were creative and families got involved to make it a fun and safe community for the kids' trick or treat." Tom and Leigha loved the Annual Picnic and look forward to the summer garage sale. They will also assist at the Winter Social.

Together, the Froms are a welcome addition to the vibrant Gerstle Park community and plan to continue staying active and involved in the many GPNA activities in the years to come.

Submitted by Dotty Lemieux

Gerstle Park Open Space

Due to the extended dry period, the removal of French Broom from our open space is on hold. We need at least 10 inches of rain to get the soil soft enough for efficient pulling. Contact me if you'd like to help clear invasive species.

Hugo Landecker
clandecker@saber.net

Planning Issues

There is a proposal to demolish the existing building at 1415 3rd Street. Planned is a new building to be used as a dialysis facility. As proposed, the building's architecture just simply does not fit San Rafael the Mission City. Although our City has very specific standards for parking, the developer will seek exceptions to the standards. The SR Design Review Board, in a split decision, approved the architecture. There are more hearings on the project expected.

Hugo Landecker
San Rafael Heritage

Join the GPNA Board!

Nominations are open for Board member candidates to serve 3-year term. If you are interested in getting involved with a dynamic and creative Board, send your name and a paragraph describing your commitment to the neighborhood by December 15th. The vote is taken at the January 27th Annual Meeting. Newcomers are welcome to apply. info@gerstlepark.com or 450-1520

Treasurer's Corner

November 14th Balance: \$3,607.62
Hugo Landecker,
Treasurer



Check Out the Latest San Rafael News

<http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/snapshot>
Parade of Lights Winter Wonderland, Design Review Board Vacancy and more

Parade of Lights Winter Wonderland



Downtown San Rafael will once again commence the Holiday Season with the Parade of Lights, Winter Wonderland, and the special Holiday Market on Friday, November 29. This will be the 34th Annual Parade of Lights in Downtown San Rafael with free snow sledding on A Street. Snow Sledding Noon to 4:30 PM & 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Marketplace Noon to

8:00 PM. Parade at 5:30 PM. Sledding will continue on Saturday, November 30th 9am-12noon, snow conditions permitting. This event will happen RAIN OR SHINE.

GPNA Year End Calendar

December 9

Winter Social for Adults, Panama Hotel, 6:30-8:30 PM

December 12

Holiday Caroling, Meet at Short School 6:30-8:30

January 14

Monthly Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 PM

January 27

Annual Meeting, Falkirk Mansion 6:30-8:30 PM

GPNA Board of Directors

Amy Likover, President
Gina Silvestri, Vice-President
Hugo Landecker, Treasurer
Ross Parmenter, Member at large

*Newsletter Designed by
GPNA Member James Ferrandini*



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

- 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!