



Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Winter 2015

Upcoming Events

Christmas Caroling

Thursday, December 10th, 2015 6:30-8:30 PM

Where: Gather/practice at 127 San Rafael Ave.

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 a flashlight



Weather: If light rain, bring an umbrella and dress accordingly. If heavy rain, we'll reschedule for the following Thursday. This is an especially great event for children, so bring them along!

Winter Social

Monday, Dec 14th, 2015 6:30-8:30 PM

The Panama Hotel Restaurant, 4 Bayview St.

No charge to attend

Complimentary appetizers and hot apple cider

Thanks to GPNA Member/Panama Hotel Owner Dan Miller

Cash Bar

It's time to renew old friendships & meet new neighbors.

Adults only, please.



GPNA Annual Meeting

Monday, January 25, 2016

Elks Club: 1312 Mission Ave., San Rafael

6:30-9:00 PM

Cash bar opens at 5 pm

6:30-7:00 PM Meet and greet; homemade refreshments

7:00-7:45 PM 'The Year in Review' slideshow and reports

7:45-9:00 Guest Speakers and Q & A



Halloween Decorating Contest Results

1st Place: 235 Marin St.

2nd Place: 12 Ross St.

3rd Place: 508 D St.

4th Pl. (tie): 217 Bayview + 101 Marin

5th Place: 421 D St.

Prizes Donated By:

Brushless Car Wash

Marin Bocce

Mill Valley Massage

Panama Hotel & Restaurant

Passion Nails

Theresa & Johnny's Comfort Food



President's Column

Hello Neighbors!

As we move from autumn to winter, the GPNA readies three very special events. Join us for Christmas caroling, whether you're a singer, musician, or just someone who enjoys good company, a neighborhood stroll and happy neighborly greetings, all are welcome. Our friends at the Panama Hotel host the member meet-and-greet winter social the week before winter solstice. This is also a great time to renew your GPNA membership, which remains the best deal in town. In January, we re-cap the year, welcome City officials, and elect new Board members at the historic Elks Lodge.

Here is the status of City issues in Gerstle Park: we await the funding for new protective guardrails on the D St./Wolfe Grade curve, a City decision on sidewalk replacement, a report back from the Police Department on our Crime and Safety Initiative requests, and school bond measure planning.

At the Elks Lodge in November, San Rafael's new historical organization was launched. Marin History Museum's librarian Jocelyn Moss showed a slideshow of area historic buildings, including several that grace Gerstle Park. You may wish to purchase GPNA note cards that feature original drawings of historic homes at the winter social. As usual, our friendly and beautiful neighborhood has a lot to offer. It's great being part of Gerstle Park.

Yours truly,
Amy Likover
GPNA President



Sidewalk Update

From City of San Rafael

Dean Allison, Public Works Director



Greetings. I would like to introduce myself – I am Dean Allison, the new Public Works Director for the City of San Rafael. Some of you may be aware that sidewalk maintenance has been a hot topic of late, as well as in years past. I know that it's a concern in Gerstle Park, as it is in other neighborhoods throughout the City. Over the years, there have been various ideas and responses from City Hall on the issue of responsibility for the cost of sidewalk maintenance ranging from sharing costs between the City and property owners to property owners repairing their own sidewalks to the City making repairs in certain circumstances. In recent years, the City has not had sufficient funds to fix all sidewalks in need of repair throughout the neighborhoods.

As the new Public Works Director, I believe it is important for the City to have clear and consistent policies and procedures for sidewalk maintenance. To achieve this there are several policy questions to answer and we want the community to be part of the process. My staff and I are now looking at best practices and developing initial concepts. We plan on holding community meetings with the City Council after the 1st of the year so we can fully hear from you and your neighbors and talk about solutions. Stay tuned for these dates – we'll let you know through NextDoor, Snapshot, and GPNA. Thank you to those of you who have already reached out to me on this and other topics. I look forward to working with you.

Street Sweeping Announcements

If you haven't noticed, the City of San Rafael Department of Public Works has recently started announcing Street Sweeping directly to neighbors on Nextdoor.com. Therefore, GPNA will no longer be emailing those announcements. We encourage all of you to join Nextdoor.com for these and other important local communications.





Emergency Preparedness

In October, seven ReadyGerstlePark volunteers mapped the reception of our new walkie-talkies, ranging from the home base of Gerstle Park to the C St. fire station and B St. Community Center, and throughout the neighborhood.

Block leaders and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers, Dave Lammel, Tim Van and Amy Likover visited Corte Madera's preparedness trailer to inform decisions on the GPNA's preparedness supplies. Our effort is in coordination with Marin County's CERT program. We will soon have 3 portable bins with medical supplies, lights, tools, and other supplies to add to our generators and sets of walkie-talkies. Thanks to Dave for arranging both events and overseeing the caches. Contact info@gerstlepark.com if you would like to be involved.



Interested in Being on the Board?

New terms begin after the annual meeting, and we welcome your application. Do you love your neighborhood, have skills to share, and want to be a part of making Gerstle Park an even better place? Board member commitments and responsibilities are: a 3-year term, monthly meetings, 6-8 events yearly, and communication by email. If you are interested in serving, please email a brief bio to info@gerstlepark.com. We hope to hear from you!

Short School Report

Kearsley Higgins, GPNA Schools Liaison



In November, the people of San Rafael approved educational bond measures A and B, and that could spell big changes for Short School in the next few years. The approved bond money will be used by the San Rafael City School District to make facilities upgrades and a Short School rebuild will likely be one of the first major projects to be funded.

The GPNA requested a District presentation about the bonds and the proposed upgrades to the schools before the election. That meeting was held on September 28th. Gerstle Park neighbors got to see early plans for the Short rebuild as well as plans for upgrades the middle and high school. While the rebuild of the Short School will be a great improvement for students and create a school with equal facilities to others in the district, there are concerns about the impact on the neighborhood and the design itself that were voiced by neighbors at the meeting.

Now that there is funding available for the Short School rebuild project, the GPNA will continue to advocate for strong community engagement. At this time, the District is just beginning the process of finding and hiring architects and planners to get a more solid plan in place.

Winter Calendar

- Dec 10 – Christmas Caroling (Rain date 12/17)
- Dec 14 – Winter Social at the Panama Hotel
- Jan 25 – Annual Meeting at the Elks Lodge

Treasurer's Corner

Ross Parmenter

Balance (as of 08/04/2015): \$8,787.38

Expenses: \$1,980.68

Income: \$374.85

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

Note: This quarter of the GPNA Treasurer's Balance includes \$1,922.70 of the original grant funding \$3,775.68 from Marin County Community Services for Emergency Preparedness Supplies. This quarter's expenses include food, rental supplies and entertainment for the annual picnic, along with emergency supplies.

A Family that Loves Halloween!

Dotty LeMieux

Rick Williams and Gari Ellis moved to Gerstle Park in 2001, after 10 years in the Rockridge and Temescal neighborhoods in Oakland. They had both grown up in Marin and wanted their 5-year-old son Josh to go to school in Marin. They were afraid they'd never find a neighborhood in Marin as great as the ones in Oakland. But, as Gari says, "Gerstle Park was a perfect fit. Diverse and kinda quirky... Just like us!"

Ever since Gari's sister and brother in law, Dana and Sean Davis moved to Gerstle Park with their son Quinn they restarted a long time Halloween tradition from their childhood, amazing Halloween decorations. Gari remembers, "Our Mother was very involved in theatre and Dad (who played bocce ball on B Street during his later years) worked in television production. As kids we always had a ton of pumpkins, handmade decorations and always a "theme"... recreating the graveyard scene from "Fiddler on the Roof" one year, and of course, "Star Wars"!!"



Dana and her family have moved to Petaluma but always return for Halloween. Coming up with new and different Halloween decorations has been fun for the whole family. This year Josh picked out the Star Wars theme. "With the upcoming film, he felt we should honor The Force."



No matter how elaborate their decorations, they do recycle their characters. "Frankenstein (Frankie) was the first and has since been cast as a magician, scuba diver, Hagrid from "Harry Potter" and this year was a very non-threatening Darth Vader," explains Gari. "We always try to keep our Halloween handcrafted and very "family friendly", no blood and guts on our porch!"



Gari describes herself as a "frustrated production designer/ stylist with a background in theatre design, currently working as a florist." The whole family is creative: Rick is an architect/urban designer, sister Dana is a children's musical theater educator/director; brother in law Sean is a sculptor/lapidary artist/special effects technician; Josh is studying graphic design in college and even high school age nephew Quinn is a skilled artist and craftsman.

Now that this year's Halloween decorations have been put away in the Ellis' basement along with the ghosts and goblins of Halloweens past, they are dusting off the Christmas lights and decorations.

Gari predicts, "Look for a Jabba in a Santa hat soon!"

GPNA Board

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



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

- 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!