



Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Winter 2018

GPNA ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, January 29, 2018

The Elks Club
1312 Mission Avenue
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Special Guests:

Mayor Gary Phillips, Police Chief Diana Bishop
and Fire Chief Chris Gray

6:00-7:00 pm Meet & greet; homemade refreshments
7:00-7:45 pm The Year in Review slideshow & reports
7:45-9:00 pm Guest Speakers and Q&A



GPNA Board Candidates

Sandra (Sandi) Luna is a Bay Area Native, born in San Francisco and raised in San Jose. At 21, she moved to San Francisco, where she lived for 25 years. In 2015, she became the proud co-owner of a duplex on Clorinda



and has never been happier with her choice of neighborhoods. For over 13 years she has been an agent at Zephyr Real Estate, and now works out of the Greenbrae office, in the Bon Air Center. Sandi walks her dog, Roman, in Gerstle Park every day and has loved getting to meet all her neighbors on these walks. If you ever see her, please say Hi!

Alicia di Vittorio grew up in Sierra Nevada foothills, spent much of her life in San Francisco, then decided to make Gerstle Park her home in 2014. She's a marketing and communications professional who's worked with several security and technology companies over the past several years.



She lives here with her husband Michael and young son, who can be seen riding his balance bike down the sidewalks on his way to the park. Alicia loves Gerstle Park for its walkability, the old trees, beautiful architecture, rich sense of community and the proximity the open space in the hills. Alicia looks forward to joining the GPNA board to find additional avenues to strengthen our community and better understand the inner workings of local government.

Tom Heinz and Denise Van Horn

Tom and Denise were appointed to the Board last Spring, and now happily "throw in their hats" for a 3-year term. Recently retired physicians, the couple moved to Gerstle Park from Southern California in 2015, in order to be closer to their grandchild. Tom leads the GPNA Planning & Development Committee, and Denise looks forward to getting more involved with neighborhood disaster preparedness and READYgerstlepark. In Denise's words, "Being on the board of GPNA is a way to contribute to this community in practical and fun ways."

President's Column

Gina Silvestri



Happy New Year, Gerstle Park! As I look back on the past year, I find myself counting my blessings. In many ways, 2017 felt like one wild ride which brought challenges for all of us, more so than any other year I can remember. However, through all of that I have appreciated that THIS is where I have chosen to call home.

In August, Gerstle Park was the setting for a City sponsored outdoor showing of the family movie, "The Sandlot". Neighbors commemorated the Summer of Love at our annual September Picnic in the Park, with the delightful music of neighbors Jenny Kerr and Phil Milner.

The GPNA joined the Landecker family at a beautiful "Celebration of Life: Hugo Landecker" at the Elks Lodge in October. Hugo's productive life effected many. He was a Gerstle Park advocate and a social reformer. Mayor Phillips, Supervisors Connolly and Rice, Police and Fire Department members, many City officials, friends and colleagues joined the nearly 300 people in attendance. I was honored to be asked to tell the story of Hugo and friends forming the GPNA back in 1973.

On December 3rd, 30 volunteers enjoyed an outdoor breakfast and the good company of the Landecker family as we honored Hugo at the First Memorial Hugo Landecker Broom Pull. Many joyous workers, including our friends from Center Point, carried on Hugo's good work by clearing wide expanses of invasive species in the Gerstle Park Open Space.

For the second year, Gerstle Park has hosted the filming of the Netflix series, "13 Reasons Why." Residents accommodated numerous trucks and equipment, graciously accepting the inconveniences, while many thrilled in seeing the action. If you happen to watch the series, you will see many scenes filmed in the neighborhood.

As you may have heard, the City's Sidewalk Repair Program was approved by the City Council in October. Click here for more information - <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/sidewalk-repair-maintenance/>. Litigation in court opposing the City's position remains ongoing. As those in attendance at the Winter Social got to see, I ended my year with a bump on the head and subsequent black eye after a trip and fall on the sidewalk near my house. One way or the other, I sincerely hope that 2018 brings safer sidewalks for all who walk our neighborhood.

Halloween 2017 House Decorating Results

- 1st Place:** 235 Marin Street
- 2nd Place:** 508 D Street
- 3rd Place (tie):** 101 Marin + 12 Ross
- 4th Place (tie):** 201 Marin + 217 Bayview



Prizes Donated By:
Arizmendi Bakery
Marin Bocce
The Mountain Play
Shineology Car Wash
Realtor Sandra Luna



Southern Heights Bridge Closure



On December 28, 2017, the City received notice from Caltrans bridge inspection staff that the existing Southern Heights Bridge should be closed effective immediately due to structural safety concerns.

As a result, the City has closed the bridge and installed detour signage. The City is currently working with a bridge consultant to design a new concrete bridge and obtain environmental clearance to replace the existing bridge. Caltrans and the City's design team are determining the appropriate next steps, including if the existing bridge can be temporarily retrofitted to allow for safe travel. Until the bridge is opened to the public, it will be closed to pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicular traffic. Follow #SHBupdates on Twitter for updates.

Street Light Upgrades to LEDs ...and what to do if you don't like them

The City has made a commitment to increase energy efficiency and reduce San Rafael's overall carbon footprint with the replacement of more than 2,700 street light bulbs with LED lights. The LED (light-emitting diode) lights, use dramatically less energy than standard older, high pressure sodium lights, and are estimated to save the City \$130,000 in energy costs annually. The new LED fixtures also have a longer lifespan, and have proved to require little maintenance compared with the current fixtures. Taken as a whole –the project will save 1,012,110 kilowatt hours of electricity per year: the equivalent of the electricity needed to power 105 homes or 150 cars each year.



PG&E and its contractor are evaluating case by case and are going to propose solutions that will help. The City of San Rafael has ordered shields to be installed on lights which are intrusive to the interior of homes. The first shipment of shields will be received by the end of January. Installation of the shields will start approximately the first week of February. Important: Not all lights will receive a shield.

Specific questions or concerns should be addressed to Cindy Ray in the Department of Public Works. It is helpful to have the light pole number.

If you have a computer:

Go to the City of San Rafael Public Works web page and complete ask Public Works form.
<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/contact-public-works/>

If you do NOT have a computer:

Call Cindy Ray at 415-458-5326

Treasurer's Corner

Ross Parmenter

Balance (as of 09/21/2017): \$5,613.43

Expenses: \$301.36

Income: \$944*

Balance (as of 12/31/2017): \$6,255.94

MarinLink Balance (donations from filming): \$8,990

*Includes donations of \$325 in Memory of Hugo Landecker



When to open your door for strangers: Neighborhood Christmas Caroling on Dec 14th.



Neighbors gathered on December 3rd to pull French Broom from the Open Space in memory of Hugo Landecker

Board Members

Gina Silvestri, *President*

Josselyn Robertson, *Vice President*

Ross Parmenter, *Treasurer*

Carrie Marmesh, *Member*

Tom Heinz, *Member*

Denise Van Horn, *Member*

GPNA Calendar

January 29 — GPNA Annual Meeting

March 24 — Spring Fling Egg Hung

December 10 — Winter Social @ Panama Hotel

June 16 — Garage Sale Day

See a problem in the neighborhood?

Please Visit the City's "Report an Issue" Page – Trash, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, check out the City's new website to get the help you need.

<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/#/city/report>



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

Renew your membership online at www.gerstlepark.com!

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
- Community Tree Committee
- Open Space Committee – weeding of invasive species (French Broom) in neighborhood open space, Nov-May
- Food Committee - help with planning, preparation & service for GPNA events

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!