



Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2002

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, Ca 94915-0644 <http://www.gerstlepark.com>

GPNA Umpty-Umpth Annual Picnic on September 12th

This year, GPNA's bodacious annual picnic will involve a leap forward into the past! When the picnic first originated in the early '70's, it was held on Thursday evenings at the Redwood Grove picnic area next to the tennis courts. Later this was changed, and now, after several years of the picnic being held in the lower playground in the day time, the Board has decided to try out the traditional venue and time once again.

Accordingly, all Gerstle Park neighbors are invited to gather at Gerstle Park's upper Redwood Grove on Thursday, Sept. 12, beginning at 5 p.m. Free hotdogs, beans, and soft drinks will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. Please, everyone bring a potluck dish to share, as follows:

Last name beginning A to M: Bring a Dessert

Last name beginning N to Z: Bring a Salad

Join in the neighborly talking, eating and good times with kids and grownups, which will continue until 9 p.m. We think the date of Sept. 12 will be a particularly good time for the individuals and families in our neighborhood to come together to celebrate a sense of community. Please share this wonderful, time-honored experience with us!

Hallowe'en Decorating Contest

Our annual Hallowe'en decorating contest is coming up faster than you think (There won't be another newsletter between now and then.) Prizes will be given for the most outrageously spooky Hallowe'en displays! We'll be looking on October 31st.



GPNA Annual Meeting October 23rd

Mark your calendar for Wednesday evening October 23 at 7:30 PM and plan to attend GPNA's Annual Meeting, to be held at the San Rafael Community Center auditorium on B Street. As usual, refreshments will be served and we will review the year's activities and accomplishments for you, as well as the major issues facing the neighborhood.

Check the current membership list to be sure you're paid up for the year 2002 and thus are eligible to vote at this annual meeting. If you are not on the current list and choose to pay your dues between now and the night of the meeting, your membership will only be good through the month of October 2002. However, you will have the pleasure of knowing that you have helped to support your neighborhood association's activities throughout the previous months of 2002!

We will consider and vote on a motion to amend the current Bylaws regarding term limits of Board members. We have three retiring Board members who have already served the three-year limit presently allowed by the Bylaws. Any change in the Bylaws will not apply to those retiring or current Board members. The proposed motion states that the term limits be changed from three years to four years.

Additionally, we will be voting on our new Board for the year 2003. The present list of volunteer Board candidates for this upcoming election includes:

Krystyna Barron	Betsy Dalpino
Richard Geist	Cynthia Landecker
Hugo Landecker	Brett Merner
Steven Schoonover	Jennifer Stroman

Additional nominations will be taken from the floor. If you are interested in serving on the GPNA Board, or if you know of someone who would like to serve, please contact one of the existing Board members for more information so additional names can be included on the ballots to be distributed at the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Update on Short School

Short School is finally being renovated for its role as a temporary campus while other San Rafael schools are being modernized. Construction began in late July and is scheduled to be completed in time for 180 K-2 Sun Valley students to begin class on August 26. Work includes fencing, painting, window replacement, roofing and flooring repairs, and data/electrical system upgrades.

We are working with the School District to monitor construction and to anticipate traffic flow for buses and parent drop-off and pick-up. The pick-up and drop-off routes as originally communicated to us by the district have changed. Now, instead of two lanes coming on to the school parking lot, approximately 90 children will be transported by two buses, dropping off and picking up at Marin and Bayview between 8:00-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-3:00 p.m.. We are trying to determine how the district is instructing parents about time and location for drop-off and pick-up by car.

We had hoped the neglected landscape at Short would be revitalized, but we are now informed that the district has no present plans to make the landscaping more attractive to students or residents.

The School District believes it will only be utilizing the Short School site for two years instead of the original four. Thus the future of Short School after its use as a temporary school site might be decided within two years instead of four. Since the use of the site is important to our neighborhood, the GPNA Board will continue to monitor this issue.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Stroman at 415-460-0912.

Neighborhood Business Spotlight:

La Fayette French Pastry

La Fayette French Pastry, located at 820 D Street, has been a generous contributor to GPNA functions and fundraisers. In this age of giant global corporations mass-producing identical goods everywhere, the Langlamet family has owned and run their small bakery for 69 years, producing quality comfort food to generations of Marinites. The bakery was started in 1935 on 4th Street in San Rafael, and moved to its present location about 1950, when the present owner's father built his own building.

Mr. Langlamet started learning the baking business as a helper at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. Later, (because he was French!) he got a job at La Fayette Bakery on Union Street, and began to learn the finer points of baking and French pastry. When he decided to open his own shop, he borrowed part of the name from his previous employers – who didn't seem to mind.

His two sons grew up in San Rafael, raised in the house their mother was born in on Latham Street. The boys went to St. Raphael's and San Rafael High School. Now the oldest son, Lou, runs the business with his wife Irene. "I build cakes", says Lou. "My brother builds buildings." Irene says she and Lou are working on "mentoring" the third generation to take over some day.

Irene is also from Marin, raised in Bolinas by a Portuguese dairy family who acquired its land from an original Mexican land grantee. (Her family was ousted from ownership in the 1970's by the land acquisition for the Pt. Reyes National Seashore.)

Besides Irene and Lou, the bakery employs four others. Everyone arrives at the shop at 3:00 a.m. (up at 2:00!) to get the day's baking started. At holiday times, they start work at midnight and manage on three hours of sleep. The store is closed for two weeks in August—not because of the French connection, but because it is a slow time for the bakery business.

Irene and Lou talked about the changes in the business and the town over the years. No more chocolate eclairs for five cents. Less French pastry and more doughnuts. But one thing a visitor to the shop—especially a thirty-year visitor—notices most is the continuity. The store looks pretty much the same as it always has. Irene's mother, who helps out during busy times, drops in to say hello. Old friends come in and wave at Lou and Irene in the back of the shop. The grandchildren of original customers are now customers themselves. "Sometimes it's neat", Lou says: Grownups who haven't been in the store since they were kids say that it feels just like home.

And one happy man came in to the baking area to insist that the GPNA reporter give La Fayette the recognition it deserves. In fact, he was willing to TESTIFY that he has tried doughnuts from many places and that La Fayette's raised glazed doughnuts are the best in the county, the country, maybe the world. Well, you heard it here, folks.

Membership Roster

Below is an alphabetical listing of the currently paid up membership for 2002. If you're not on the list, it's not too late to pay dues for the year 2002. We'll be taking memberships at the Annual Picnic on September 12 and prior to the Annual Meeting on the evening of October 23. And you can always mail your dues in with the application provided here. Remember, though, that our fiscal and membership year runs from November 1 through October 31. So if you wish to vote at the Annual Meeting you must be on the following membership roster or pay your dues on or before October 23. Preprinted ballots will be provided to paid up members at the meeting. If you think you paid your dues, but are not on the list, please give us a call with the date of your payment and we'll fix it! Call Tina Yesson at 455.8671 between 10 a.m. & 10 p.m. If there's no answer just leave a message and be sure to include your phone number.

Geraldine Allan	James Dutro	Hugo Landecker	Margaret & Hermann Reuther
John & Leslie Allen	Emmie Ericson	Patricia & Clifford Lardinois	Charles & Julia Robertson
Robert Antonelli	Laurel & Elliott Feigenbaum	Brita Larsson & Tom Kucera	Guy & Nancy Russell
Norman & Carol Arends	Tim Firman	Linda LeBlond	Elizabeth Ryan-Dalpino
Louis & Lee Avedano	Pat Ford & Kay Bolla	Nita B. Lederman	Barbara Schilling
Kay Baradat	Deanna Freitas	Kathleen & Jim Leech	John & Carol Schnell
Malcolm Barker	David Frey	Valerie Lels	V. Schomer & A. Kebede
Krystyna & Craig Barron	Esther Klingman Frey	Steve Lenschmidt	Steven Schoonover
Tom & Devin Bartone	Carol & Gary Galloway	Doug Licht	Joel Schwartz & Nancy Hine
M. Kathea Beatie & Barrett Troll	Ideale & Sonya Gambera	Barnard C. & Elvira Lindemann	Amy Sievers
Susan Bella	John & Marian Garfola	Sandy Lollini	Dr. & Mrs. Harris F. Simmonds
Diantha Bell	Alfred N. Gazzano	Tom Lollini	Dave Simonini
Trout Black	Jon Geigenmuller	Patricia D. Lorentzen	Sherrie H. Sinclair
Tamara Bolinger	Richard & Julia Geist	Dolores Lydon	Bob & Peg Snyder
Marlene & Brian Bonham	Mario & Judith Gianetti	Harold & Doris Lynch	David Snyder & Sandi Kiriluk
Laura Borba	Jay Ginwala & Susan Wilbert	Ann & Roger Machin	Loretta Soldavini
Alyce Bottini	Segrid Gladstone	Richard & Ietha Marchetti	Al Souza
Lynn Bradescu	Bryan Gould & Laurie Oman	Jerry Marquez	Carrie Souza
Diana & Mike Britting	Mary Lu Graham & Monica Martin	Tom Martinez & Erika McAuliffe	Cassie & Marshall Stevenson
Tony Brown & Mary Kelly	Jerome & Ingrid Groeshl	Terry & Patricia Medalen	Janis Stitt & Roger Coale
John Casey & Lucinda Daniel	Martin & Valerie Gutteling	Brett & Peggy Merner	Jennifer Stroman
Bob Casinelli	Beverly Hall	Marilyn & Janice Moisan	Steve Stucky & Lane Olson
Cater/Scheer Family	Daniel Harris	Monte Family	Bill & Carole Talmage
Center Point Attn: Marc Hering	Pamela Hawkins	Bill Mund	Kathy & Jeremy Taylor
Miles Chapuis	Anna & Tim Heidinger	Chandra & Duane Murphy	Shari & Tom Tracy
Robert Ciocco	Eliot & Margot Holtzman	Tom Nolan & Mary Miller	Yolanda Traverso
Rod & Robin Collins	Linda & Bruce Hopper	David Ortez & Joli Wilson	Mary Valente & Phil Burk
Shannon Collins	The John Family	Nancy Otto	Charles Von Drehle & Laurie Telder
Collins Family	Dolores & Bart Jones	Robert D. Palmer	Dorothy C. Weicker
Shannon & Melissa Daly	John & Lisa Kampmeyer	Steve Patterson	Anita L. Welter
Carol & Leo Deamicis	Bertram & Alice Katzung	Bruce & Bernadette Payne	Robin Whelan & Ed MacDonald
Dave & Char Devencenzi	Roberta Kemp	Tamra Peters & Bill Carney	Robin White
Fran DeVinny	Andrew A. Kives	Susan & Charlie Pick	Jerry & Tina Yesson
Julie Doering	Dottie Kubota-Cordery	John & Sandra Powers	Erica Young
Linda Donaghue	Sarah Kushner	Deanne & Michael Price	Victoria Young & Darryl Paffenroth
Angelo Douvos	Dave Lammel & David Simon	The Prunty Family	Larry & Nancy Zee
Greg Dudley	Cynthia Landecker	John & Michelle Quick	

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Membership Application

Please complete the information below and return with your check to:
GPNA, P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915-0644

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Do you wish to receive this newsletter at your home? Yes No

Would you like to be included on our mailing list? Yes No

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

New Member Renewal

Amount Enclosed*: \$ _____ *Annual donation: **\$10.00** per household (**\$5.00** seniors) - 1 voting member

Payment Type: _____ Term of membership is from November 1st to November 1st

How did you hear about GPNA? Friend Newsletter Other: _____

Welcome to GPNA!

Street Sweeping Pilot Program

In response to our recent survey regarding noise, parking, and a possible Golden Gate Transit shuttle, we received many inquiries and comments about street sweeping and the possibility of having it done later in the day after most parked cars have been moved. The result is that in cooperation with the City of San Rafael, the San Rafael Federation of Neighborhoods and GPNA, a pilot program will be implemented in the Gerstle Park neighborhood beginning in September. Tentatively, sweeping will be done sometime after 9:00 a.m.—exact time is yet to be determined. The proposed change will begin on the first Tuesday in September and will continue for the following five Tuesdays. More details of the plan will be publicized as they become available. Check at the Gerstle Park kiosk, or on postings at your e-mail address or on local bulletin boards.

TINA YESSON

Broker Associate, Marchant Chapman Realtors®

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Gerstle Park Real Estate Specialist
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Your Neighbors Are My References!!

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523 C St - refurbished Victorian compound with 8-color elegant paint job. See our preparation, see our execution, see what makes a "Fine Line job" special. This is one of the many we have done in Gerstle Park.

- Call us to find out how we can make your home the most special on your block. Appointments being taken, now!

Fine Line Painting - "The Gerstle Park Specialist"

~Since 1987 - Estimates 485-1493 - prepped right to last~

Garage Sale a Success

This year's garage sale was a great success! We held it at Gerstle Park for the first time due to the unavailability of Short School. We had 14 vendors at Gerstle Park and 39 vendors throughout the neighborhood. We made approximately \$1,230.00. GPNA would like to thank Lafayette Bakery, Safeway and Muffin Mania for their donations of food. GPNA also thanks all those who participated and volunteered at the event. We would encourage all residents to participate in next year's garage sale as this is GPNA's only fundraiser. If perchance you still have a garage sale sign please return it to 19A Ross Street, (the house in the back). Thank you.

GPNA Density Survey

GPNA Board volunteers have completed their task of counting the existing housing units in Gerstle Park's core area. We are still analyzing the results and will have a report for you in the Winter newsletter. We hope that this information will be helpful to the City of San Rafael in its housing planning, and also to GPNA as we continue to work on an update of our Neighborhood Plan.

2002 Calendar of Events

September 16 Annual Picnic
 October 23 Annual Meeting
 October 31 Halloween Contest Judging



GPNA Monthly Meetings

Remember, you're Invited!

Upcoming GPNA meeting dates are:
 Wednesday, September 11th and
 Wednesday, October 9th.

Check www.GerstlePark.com for time and location.

GPNA Needs Your Help!

It takes a couple hours every three months to walk a few blocks and drop off newsletters to your neighbors. We have lost several of our newsletter delivery persons and need volunteers! If you could lend a hand, please call Eve at 482.8391.

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Year 2001-2002 Number 4

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