

## Did You Know?

GPNA Board members get frequent calls from residents asking about a particular neighborhood concern of theirs, so last year we established the "Did You Know" column as a way to communicate to the neighborhood, without expressing any editorial opinion, about their concerns. In this way, residents may be guided as they choose. In recent issues we have cited relevant Municipal Codes on regulations regarding parked cars, fences, and dogs on leashes. A few people have objected to our quoting the city leash law. We wish to stress that it was never our intention to create negativity or divisiveness; most of us love pets. We were responding to the real concerns of residents who have been threatened or frightened by a few incidents of aggressive behavior on the part of unleashed pets. We simply informed residents of the applicable city code. We know that most pet owners are responsible people who want to be considerate of the other folks who share their crowded world.

Perhaps some of you would like to volunteer to work with GPNA to explore establishing a dog park where local dogs and their owners could play and socialize. Let us know!

We will address a new topic in the next issue.

*-Code Advisory Committee*

## Notes On Your Newsletter Delivery

We've received notification from the U.S. Postal Service that mail boxes are not to be used for delivery of anything except mail delivered via the U.S. Postal Service. While many of the volunteers who have delivered your GPNA Newsletter to you in the past have placed the newsletter under the flag of your mailbox or in your mailbox, this is no longer possible. Future GPNA Newsletters will either be placed under your doormat or somehow affixed to your front door. If you do not wish to receive the GPNA Newsletter, kindly send us a written communication to that effect at P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael Ca 94915-0644 and we will discontinue future deliveries.

## 2001 Calendar of Events

April 14	Spring Fling
May 5	Clean-Up Day
June 23	Garage Sale
September 9	Annual Picnic
October 24	Annual Meeting
October 31	Halloween Decorating Contest
December 13	Christmas Caroling
December 25	Christmas Decorating Contest

## Quarterly Newsletter Spring 2001



### Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, Ca 94915-0644

<http://www.gerstlepark.com>

## Short School — To Be or Not To Be? That is the Question! Join Us For the Answer on April 3

San Rafael City Schools are proposing to make renovations to Short School, possibly starting this summer, so it can be used for the next several years as an interim campus for other schools as they are being renovated. Our concern is with what plans the school district will develop for the use of Short School after all renovation is completed. In a preliminary meeting with GPNA Board member Bill Baker, some of the alternatives that district representatives mentioned included: converting the school to an administrative office for the school board; using it as a special education facility; or possibly tearing the structure down in order to build affordable housing for teachers, firemen, and/or policemen.

Although some GPNA board members attended a January 23 informational meeting at Davidson School, we learned nothing with regard to Short School's ultimate future. Therefore, we have arranged a special neighborhood meeting with San Rafael Superintendent of Schools Barbara Smith and Board Member Jenny Calloway, who will make a presentation to residents of the Gerstle Park neighborhood regarding the proposed renovations to Short School, its use as an interim campus, and the possible alternatives for the site once all schools have been renovated.

We urge you all to attend this meeting, which has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Short School. Any further notices regarding this meeting will be posted at the Kiosk at Gerstle Park and on the GPNA website and Calendar. We are hoping for a BIG turnout for this meeting. It will definitely be an opportunity for us to voice any concerns we may have about the future of Short School. The school is in the heart of the Gerstle Park neighborhood and it is hoped that future uses of the site will enhance our neighborhood.

### Upcoming Events:

**Spring Fling — April 14th**

**Spring Clean-Up Day — May 5th**

(see next page for details)

## Buying, Selling, Refinancing?

We will donate \$500 on each sale closed, and \$250 on each loan closed in the neighborhood to GPNA!

For a FREE MARKET ANALYSIS of your property, or to get a 24 HOUR APPROVAL for a refinance or Purchase loan, please call:

**Vince Sheehan, Gerstle Park Homeowner and Broker of**

**Vince Sheehan Realty**  
302-2500 or 457-8988 (H)

&

**Ross Valley Mortgage**  
485-4448

## Time For Spring Fling!

The GPNA will sponsor our annual Spring Fling on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. The event, held in Gerstle Park, has always been fun for neighborhood kids and their families. There will be an egg hunt, a visit from the Spring Bunny, a raffle, and lots of exciting activities to celebrate the arrival of warm weather and sunshine. So, please mark your calendars and join your neighbors for the annual festivities!

A number of you expressed an interest in the organization of the event last year, so if you would like to help out with dying eggs, hiding eggs, baking goodies, or with ideas and planning, please call Ken or Eve at 482-8391. This event has drawn a huge crowd in recent years and help is always appreciated.

## Spring Clean-Up Day May 5

Please note that the date of May 5 for this event is a change from the original schedule. Once again, GPNA will sponsor our own neighborhood Clean-up Day. Each year, we seem to fill up three huge dumpsters with branches, brush, and, of course, weeds! What a great way to start off your spring cleaning! Sharpen your saws and shears, pump up that old wheelbarrow, and help us get Gerstle Park looking all spiffed up for our giant Garage Sale in June. Dumpsters will be located for your convenience at Short School and at Albert Park on "B" Street from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. PLEASE, NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE OF ANY KIND!! Please contact Bill Baker at 460-9942 if you would like to volunteer to help or if you have questions.

## San Rafael Choices On April 11

The City of San Rafael is once again hosting a series of meetings to give San Rafael neighborhood "residents and business people the opportunity to assist in sculpting City financial and service priorities for the next two years". The goal is to "gather public input on how the city should spend tax dollars." You can participate in this vital and democratic decision-forming process at our own local meeting on April 11, 7-9 p.m., at the San Rafael Community Center, 618 "B" Street. We hope to see you there! For more information, call the City at 485-3072.

## Disaster Preparedness Training Coming In May

The San Rafael Fire Department is looking for motivated, community-minded individuals who want to know what to do in the event of a disaster. Participants will learn home emergency preparedness, controlling utilities, fire prevention and suppression, disaster first aid, disaster psychology, light search and rescue, fire extinguishers, and hazardous materials identification. DART: Disaster Area Response Team Training, is offered at the Fire Department Training Center (across from Whole Foods), at 210 Third Street. Classes are May 2, 9, 22, 29 and June 5, from 7:00-10:00 PM. Attendance at all 5 classes is required to become a DART member. For more information, call Dawn at 485-3308. Class registration is \$30; preregistration is essential.

## Center Point Update

The non-profit corporation Center Point, Inc., headquartered on "B" Street, has operated a residential drug and alcohol treatment facility in Gerstle Park at 603 "D" Street since 1989. For thirty years, Center Point has provided social rehabilitation services for adolescents and adults. However, its overall mission is not limited to recovery from alcohol and drug dependency, but includes providing medical assessment and care, transitional housing, counseling, education, vocational and social skills training. The aim is to combat social problems such as substance abuse, poverty, unemployment and homelessness.

In response to some concerns expressed by the facility's neighbors, Rhonda Kutter, a GPNA member and resident, worked with GPNA and the City Planning Department as well as Center Point. Now, to promote communication and understanding between this needed rehabilitation facility and Gerstle Park, GPNA member Steven Schoonover (479-5623) has been appointed to Center Point's Community Advisory Board as a liaison with the neighborhood. Gerstle Park neighbors are encouraged to call him with any questions or comments regarding Center Point. Also, Center Point has administrative staff available (Laura Lambe or Marc Hering) to address residents' concerns on Wednesdays between 3-5 p.m. at 454-7777.

Center Point volunteers have willingly worked on neighborhood projects over the years, and GPNA appreciates Center Point's willingness to give back to our community. We look forward to working together on future neighborhood projects.

We give a very special thank you to Steve Schoonover for stepping forward!

### ***Your Neighbors Are My References!!***

- 323 Bayview St—shingle style Arts/Craft
- 322 Bayview St—English Tudor bungalow
- 231 Bayview St—shingle style Arts/Craft
- 153/155 Clark St—70's style duplex
- 523 C St—Victorian duplex
- 112 San Rafael Ave.—shingle style Arts/Craft
- 200 Marin St.—shingle style Arts/Craft
- 51 Clorinda—Victorian remodel
- 134 Clorinda—shingle style Arts/Crafts
- 362 Clorinda—contemporary style
- 365 Clorinda—contemporary style

### **Fine Line Painting "The Gerstle Park Specialist"**

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

## Check Out GPNA's Own Website: [www.GerstlePark.com!](http://www.GerstlePark.com)

Thanks to Board Member Ken Goudey, our website is a one-stop shop for information about your neighborhood and about the GPNA. You can download a membership application, check the GPNA's neighborhood events calendar by linking to the GPNA-Calendar, see who the board members are, link to city ordinances, and more. Even the adopted 1979 Neighborhood Plan has been scanned in and is available to read .

The website helps us to fulfill some of the goals of our GPNA Mission Statement, including helping us in representing the neighborhood before the City of San Rafael, providing a forum for discussion of neighborhood planning issues, and helping to educate residents about current pertinent issues.

On our website, you also can link and subscribe to the new GPNA-Calendar listserver, which is a way that we can email you to keep you abreast of city, county, and other Marin organizations and associations meetings in a timely way. We hope you take full advantage of this exciting way to communicate with you.

## GPNA-Calendar E-List Launched

Do you have access to the internet? Did you know that San Rafael and the County are working on updating their general plans, and are hosting meetings and workshops dealing with housing, transportation, planning, land use and other issues? Would you like to know what and when San Rafael, County, GPNA, Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods, and other meetings are happening? You can subscribe to a free GPNA on-line calendar service that will send notices and reminders about upcoming meetings to your email address. You can subscribe in three ways: give us your email address with your GPNA membership form, and we'll sign you up; do it yourself by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GPNA-Calendar>; or send an email to [Tucker\\_Lois@yahoo.com](mailto:Tucker_Lois@yahoo.com) and ask to be subscribed. The GPNA Board created this egroup as a tool to stay informed of meetings. It is open to all interested parties, as are monthly GPNA Board meetings. Get involved!

## Holiday Decorating Contest

There's absolutely no doubt that if we had a prize for the best street, upper Clorinda would have won first place. With their blue curb lights running up from the bottom of the hill all the way to the end and a concerted effort by every home on the block, it was truly a spectacular display of holiday spirit, not to be missed. Many other homes throughout the neighborhood managed to catch our attention as well as the holiday spirit with creative and energy-efficient decorations. The decision was tough but made easier by the fact that several Board members compiled their winner lists independently of one another — and ended up mostly in agreement! So the winners are . . . . .

### **Tied for FIRST PLACE:**

350 Clorinda — (name unknown) and  
362 Clorinda — Tom & Shari Tracy

### **SECOND PLACE:**

134 Clorinda — Stephen & Rachel Tracy

### **THIRD PLACE:**

347 Bayview — Douglas & Jennifer Donnellan

### **HONORABLE MENTION:**

341 Clorinda — Michael Murray  
112 San Rafael Ave. — Lynn Bradescu  
117 San Rafael Ave. — Shannon & Melissa Daly  
222 C St. — (name unknown)  
303 C St. — (name unknown)  
333 Clorinda — Michael & Sandra Cabarrus

Although we wish we could have given prizes to all of you, we believe the real prize—the fun, spirit, and beauty created by this event — was shared by everyone in the neighborhood. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this magic feeling.

## Gerstle Park's New Kiosk

A beautiful new GPNA kiosk has been placed at the entrance to the lower play area of Gerstle Park. GPNA will use this kiosk to post timely information on neighborhood news and vital issues. We wish to express our gratitude to the following people for making this outstanding structure possible: Carleen McCart of the City of San Rafael; Bob Forsher, Architect; Bill Baker and Kevin Clarke, Builders; Melissa and Shannon Daly; Rafael Lumber; and Rachel Tracy of GPNA. Check it out! You can contact Cynthia Landecker at 456-0221 if you have any suggestions or comments.

## Caroling (In The Rain!)

Once again, neighborhood carolers were out to bring Christmas cheer to the Gerstle Park neighborhood. A special thank you to the great Larry Zee for leading the singing. If you were able to sing with us, thanks for coming out on a rainy night. If you came out to listen, thanks for being such a great audience. And if you didn't make it this time, it would be great if you could join us next December. The more the merrier!

## Gardening The Healthy Way

Now that Spring will soon be here, Gerstle Park resident Peggy Merner has some tips to help eager gardeners use sensible practices to avoid using toxic pesticides and to keep our environment healthier as a result. She calls these methods Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Some recommended steps:

Careful monitoring of your garden to detect problems quickly. Hand picking or using a water spray to remove pesky insects. Encouraging beneficial insects. Using a nontoxic insecticide like soap or horticultural spray. As a last resort, using the least toxic pesticide only on infected plants. Hand picking snails and placing them in soapy water, or letting them crawl into a shallow pan containing beer or water and commercial yeast.

Contact your local nursery or the Marin Master Gardeners (415-499-4204) for help with specific questions.

## Sudden Oak Tree Death Update

As you have probably heard, research is continuing to isolate the causes and find potential cures for sudden oak tree death. So far, promoting good oak tree health is still the first and best step homeowners can take to care for their oak trees. For the latest detailed information, please go to the very informative website: <http://cemarin.ucdavis.edu> or call the UC Cooperative Extension Office at 499-4204.

The loss of many great old oak trees has been an ongoing tragedy in Gerstle Park's open space. Neighbors might want to urge our Governor and state legislators to allot funds to combat this state-wide blight.



## GPNA Monthly Meetings

### Remember, You're Invited!

GPNA meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Upcoming dates are: April 11<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup>, and June 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Brett Merner reports that we currently have a bank balance of \$4394.39.

## Membership News

As of January 22, we have a current paid-up 2001 membership total of 104 residents, but we are still looking for a lot more participation. We hope you will take this opportunity to support our efforts by filling in the application in this issue and sending your check. Be sure to include your e-mail address so that we can remind you of impending meetings, events and neighborhood issues as they come up.

## Doers and Daffodils: The GPNA Landscape Committee

Landscape Committee Chair Rhonda Kutter would like to thank the many volunteers from Center Point, and GPNA Landscape Committee volunteers Jerome Grodshl, Sara Eddelman and her friend Chris, who participated in last fall's city-wide cleanup day.

The Center Point crew removed about a dozen bags of litter from the hills above Gerstle Park. The other volunteers did a great job of cleaning up the garbage and tree litter along First Street, from D Street to B Street, and all around the 7-11.

We thank the City of San Rafael for organizing the cleanup day and for giving us dozens of daffodil bulbs. The daffodils were planted along the creek on First Street, between D and E by a great crew from Center Point, as well as Lois Tucker and Mona Romero. A special thanks to Steven Schoonover who helped Rhonda organize the Center Point volunteers for both events.

Rhonda reports that the current primary need of the Landscape Committee is for "project coordinators", volunteers who are willing to take on the necessary organizational tasks to get a project into action. She is more than willing to help you get started. Please e-mail or call her (RLKutter@aol.com or 457.5528) if you have a project in mind you would like to move forward, or if you have the time to take on one of our many proposed projects, such as the Plant a Tree Project. Rhonda is still working with the City of San Rafael to scout new locations in our neighborhood for city trees to be planted in the tree planting strips. Let her know if you have a spot for a tree.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>

How did you hear about GPNA?  Friend  Newsletter  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to GPNA!