

# Gerstle Park

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## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Spring 2012



## Get Ready for Spring Fling

Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

10am *Sharp!*

### The Gerstle Park Playground

Expect to arrive at the Gerstle Park Playground before 10am because once the kids are let loose at 10am *sharp* to collect Easter eggs, the candy will disappear in a hurry. We will supply coffee and muffins from our own Muffin Mania. Older and younger kids each have their own egg-hunt area for safety reasons - ages 5 and under in the playground and ages 6-9 in the upper park.

## Celebrate Earth Day

### Beautify the Gerstle Park Neighborhood- Meet at 9 AM Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>

at the corner of Antoinette and D Street for GPNA's service project. We will remove French Broom from the planter strip between the D Street hill and Wolfe Avenue, a gateway to our neighborhood. Please wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and sturdy shoes. Bring your favorite garden gloves, but if you don't have any we can supply them. Children need to be accompanied by an adult.

**The Earth Day Marin 2012 Festival** at the Marin Civic Center Lagoon Park, from 11 AM to 6 PM there will be food, entertainment, fun for the kids, speakers and more [www.earthdaymarin.org](http://www.earthdaymarin.org)

### Mutual Appreciation Breakfast at the Gerstle Park Inn

GPNA members Hugo and Cynthia Landecker, Amy Likover and Jim Dowling, owner of the Gerstle Park Inn after a delicious thank you breakfast. Amy & Hugo pulled the two hillsides of the invasive species "French Broom" from the Open Space area behind the inn.

## Introducing the new GPNA Board Members

Welcome the new and returning GPNA Board members. You have a fun, dedicated and interesting Board. Contact us with your idea at [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com). *Calendar of the 2012 events and meetings on Page 3.*

### Amy Likover (Exp 2014) President

Liaison to Sober Living Facilities, (Federation of Neighborhoods Steering Committee)

### Samantha Sargent (Exp 2014) Vice-President Community Outreach

### Hugo Landecker (Exp 2015) Treasurer

Open Spaces, GP Liaison to the Federation of Neighborhoods, City Projects, SR Heritage

### Cindi Hubbard (Exp 2015) Recording Secretary

### Gina Silvestri (Exp 2015) Corresponding Secretary

### Heather Stewart (Exp 2015) Newsletter Editor & Designer

### Board Vacancies

We are in need of a few important positions within the board: Neighborhood CERT Plan Co-ordinator, Membership Chair and Webmaster to maintain our neighborhood website. If you're interested in these positions or effecting change in your neighborhood, start by attending our monthly meetings. Contact Amy at [info@gerslepark.com](mailto:info@gerslepark.com).



## In memoriam –

### Steve Patterson



Steve Patterson  
(IJ photo/Jeff Vendsel)

Longtime Gerstle Park Neighborhood resident Steve Patterson passed away on February 20, 2012 of ALS. Steve moved to our neighborhood about 1975 and immediately joined the GPNA. He soon acquainted himself with local issues and became the GPNA President.

Steve was a guardian of this neighborhood and an untiring advocate of its interests. He was sensitive to anything that might adversely impact the quality of life and the historic integrity of our neighborhood. He was also an activist in local and national politics, giving generously of his time and his beautiful Arts and Crafts home to the candidates he supported.

Eventually, Steve, along with some other Gerstle Park residents, formed the Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods. He brought all of San Rafael's neighborhoods together in an extraordinary group of people from around the city. Their goal was to advocate for themselves and for each other on vital issues and to form a constructive dialogue with city officials. Steve was the founding Chairman of the Federation and held that position until his death. His goal was to help others advocate for their own interests; his achievement was giving residents a beautiful sense of community.

Steve's devotion to Gerstle Park and to the city of San Rafael will be missed. He leaves many grieving friends.

## Annual Meeting Report

Thanks to all 50 or so residents who attended! We enjoyed an amazing banquet by new Board member Gina Silvestri and her mother. Outgoing President Bob Beyea and VP Stacey Laumann summarized the year while speakers arranged by new Board VP Samantha Sargent, County Supervisor Katie Rice, SRPD Lieutenant Pata, Officers Prince and Augustyn and SRFPP Battalion Chief Rowan brought us up to date on issues of safety and governance.

## Register for Community Emergency Response Team

CERT Basic is the entry level training course covering basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety & suppression, light search & rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood following/during a disaster. Register at <http://www.marincountycert.org>

Required Classes: April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1st. 6-9 pm. Cost: \$45

Location: San Rafael Fire Station, 210 3rd St. San Rafael

Information: Contact Angela 458-5002.

If you have completed basic training, you may enroll in Advanced CERT Team Training May 8th.

## President's Column

Happy Spring time to Everyone!

Our clocks sprang forward last weekend and your GPNA Board springs to action with new members, events, and regular meetings. Join us! One way to get involved is by sending in this newsletter's back page with your \$20 or \$10 annual fee and letting us know your interests. Your membership is active if you've paid since January. Active members should send in the newly revised bottom half. You'll see there are additional events this year—something for everyone: seasonal events, Earth Day gardening, local politics and Community Response Team training. Bring your families and neighbors to our shindigs and meetings.

We live in a splendid area, especially sweet during the spring: magnolias, wild currents, budding buckeyes, fruit tree blossoms and more decorate our streets. We encourage you to renew friendships with neighbors and visit our park and wild open spaces above Gerstle Park under these glorious skies.

I thought I'd share one of my favorite recipes with you,  
"Amy's Deer Concoction"

All you need is a gallon plastic weatherproof pitcher, sturdy spray bottle and ingredients from your fridge.

**Ingredients:**

2 raw eggs,  
2 pressed garlic cloves,  
2 T. of hot sauce,  
1 gallon water.

Wisk first 3 ingredients,  
add water and stir.  
Let sit outside for 24 hours  
it will smell increasingly  
putrid, sorry!

Spray on all plants that deer generally enjoy, reapply to new growth or after rains, and the deer will walk right past your garden.

See you at the Spring Fling. Bring your kids and grandkids! Don't hesitate to contact me - [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com).

Yours truly,

Amy Likover

## GPNA Financial Corner

Treasurer report for January & February 2012

12/31/11 balance	\$783.82
expenses	-\$274.24
dues	+\$465.00
<b>2/29/12 balance</b>	<b>\$1974.58</b>



Annual meeting donations from Starbucks, United Market and Marin Produce

## Ritter House Update

A Gerstle Park resident filed an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval for Ritter Center to add a medical trailer and place dumpsters at the front of their site which includes a historic building. Ritter Center is a non-profit organization that provides important services to the needy and homeless, located on Ritter Street in downtown San Rafael.

The appeal was filed for three reasons:

1. The trailer and dumpsters would be a visual blight from Third Street, a gateway street to San Rafael. The proposed trailer, adjacent to a historic building, is an inappropriate structure for downtown and sets an unacceptable precedent.
2. The county has built a \$70 million, state-of-the-art medical center about a mile away. Potentially Ritter Street clients could be served there. Since the Ritter expansion is funded by a federal grant, this may be a duplication of services and a waste of taxpayer money.
3. Downtown businesses, neighbors, visitors and prospective businesses suffer the effects of Ritter's already over-extended site.

A public hearing on the appeal will be held April 2, 2012 in the City Council chambers, City Hall, at 8 p.m. All of you are encouraged to attend.

The GPNA unanimously passed the following resolution at the last Board meeting.

The GPNA Board supports the Appeal to the City Council of the San Rafael Planning Commission's February 14th decision (Ritter Center, UP11-070/ED11-089) because the decision was based on need rather than appropriate City planning criteria. Ritter is already in violation of their current use permit by treating more people than their permit allows on a daily basis, the proposed modular trailer is an architectural blight and the proposal needs a sunset clause.

## San Rafael Events/Resources:

### City Manager's Blog

Here's easy access from our City Manager, Nancy Mackle about San Rafael doings. Learn about Art Talks, Search for Lost Pets, New 7 pm City Council Meeting Time, Budget Preparation, Financial Director Opening and more.

<http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/citymgr-snapshot/>

### Federation of San Rafael Neighborhood Monthly Meetings

This group is made up of both neighborhood associations and individuals who care about broad issues that can impact all of San Rafael. They invite anyone to attend the monthly meetings.

<http://www.fsrn.info>

## Professional Baseball Comes to Albert Park... Maybe

On February 28, 2012, Judge M. Lynn Duryee ruled in favor of Centerfield Partners, LLC; thus, clearing the way to bring professional minor league baseball to Albert Field. The ruling against the Albert Park Neighborhood Alliance (APNA), which sought to have the court mandate that an Initial Study of Environmental Impact be conducted by an independent third party prior to allowing any use of the park for professional entertainment, also states that the 1 year Use Agreement between Centerfield Partners and the City does not violate the 1 week commercial use restriction contained in Jacob Albert's 1937 Deed of the parkland to the City.

APNA believes that there is a very real possibility that allowing professional baseball to be played at Albert Field, under the terms of the present Use Agreement, will provide a precedent for future commercialization of the park. APNA, whose members comprise various individuals of the Gerstle Park, Southern Heights, Picnic Hill, Bret Harte and Downtown neighborhoods is presently assessing its options, which include the possibility of appealing the Judge's decision.

Those wishing more information and copies of the case documents are urged to visit the APNA website at: [www.albertparkna.org](http://www.albertparkna.org).

## Dog Leash Ordinance

For the safety of others, it is required by Municipal Code to keep your dog leashed at all times in San Rafael, otherwise you may be cited for a misdemeanor and a penalty up to \$500. We must avoid tragic dog attacks such as transpired last month where it was reported a Labrador fatally injured a Pomeranian in our own Gerstle Park. San Rafael has a designated off-leash dog park near the Civic Center.

## GPNA Calendar of Events *tentative schedule*

March 31	Sat	Spring Fling/Egg Hunt
April 12	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Mtg
April 21	Sat	Earth Day Gardening
May 10	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Mtg
June 14	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Mtg
June 16	Sat	Neighborhood Garage Sale
July 12	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Mtg
Aug 9	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Mtg
Sept 9	Sun	Neighborhood Picnic
Sept 13	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Mtg
Oct 11	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Mtg
Oct 31	Wed	Halloween House Decoration
Nov 8	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Mtg
Dec 13	Thur	GPNA Monthly Board Mtg
Jan 24	Thur	Annual Meeting

We encourage all to attend the Board Meetings. Held each month from 7-9pm at different locations. Please verify time and location prior to meeting by emailing [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com)



# Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Membership Form

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

*Membership year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup>*  
One Vote Per Individual - \$20/year (\$10 seniors age 65+)

NEW MEMBER     RENEWAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*all GPNA correspondence is via email*

Payment Type:     CHECK     CASH

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_



*Check events of interest to you. We welcome you to a year full of neighborhood fun & friendship!*

- Spring Fling Egg Hunt
- Annual September Picnic
- Newsletter Reporting, Quarterly
- December Caroling
- Other social events
- January Annual Meeting Refreshments
- Summer Garage Sale
- Membership promotion, year-long
- Halloween events
- New neighbor welcoming
- Open space invasive species eradication, Nov-May

Neighborhood advocacy in San Rafael city government, Year-long

*Check Issues of interest to you.*

- Homelessness
- Gerstle Park
- Group home regulation
- Zoning enforcement
- Albert Park
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

visit our website  
[www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)

**Welcome to the GPNA!**