

# Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 150644 • SAN RAFAEL • CALIFORNIA • 94915-0644 • [HTTP://WWW.GERSTLEPARK.COM](http://www.gerstlepark.com)

**DON'T MISS: JUNE 13: NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MEETING / JUNE 18: ANNUAL GARAGE SALE**

## **GERSTLE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MEETING AT B STREET COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Monday, June 13th, 7-9 PM**

What can we do about the speeding vehicles in Gerstle Park? Do you have difficulty crossing the street safely? Have you noticed an increase in traffic related noise? What about the increased number of cars passing your house? Do you have difficulty exiting your driveway safely? Why don't we have crosswalk signs where they're obviously needed? These are important issues, and we need to talk about them together!

GPNA's Traffic Committee was formed because of many reports by residents regarding traffic problems. These vehicle-related complaints include speeding, disobeying signs/signals, traffic volume and noise, type of traffic (such as large commercial vehicles using small side streets) and intersection safety, to name a few. The Committee has worked with the City of San Rafael in an effort to bring improvements or solutions to these issues by participating in the General Plan process related to traffic. Committee members have also met several times with the Traffic Engineer of San Rafael's Department of Public Works, and with County Supervisor Hal Brown. Now it's important that we as residents come together to discuss these issues and brainstorm about possible solutions and what actions we can take. Because GPNA represents you, we need to know what your concerns and preferences are related to traffic improvements for Gerstle Park. Traffic in our neighborhood affects each of us every day, so please join us at the June 13th Neighborhood Traffic Meeting.

A short survey designed to help us prepare for the meeting is inserted in this newsletter. Please take a couple of minutes to complete the survey and return it by May 31st. All surveys returned by May 31st will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate for dinner at the Panama Hotel. The drawing will be held at the Neighborhood Traffic Meeting.

Whether or not you can attend the meeting, please complete and return the survey via: fax 415-459-4876, mail (fold up and attach a stamp), or deliver it in person to 22 Bayview Street and deposit it in the wall drop-box on the porch; you can also email comments to [Tymber@gerstlepark.com](mailto:Tymber@gerstlepark.com).

## **B STREET UPDATE**

As a continuation of the B Street cleanup efforts, the planter on the corner in front of 7-11 has now been landscaped. Additional soil, as well as the labor to prepare the planter, was donated by GPNA Board member Dan Miller and his staff

from the Panama Hotel. Parvin Hashemi, the owner of the building housing 7-11 and other businesses, donated a good portion of the funds for purchase of the plants, and GPNA Board member Tymber Cavasian provided additional funds, as well as labor to transport and install the plants and bark. GPNA will make sure the new plants get established by managing the watering chore ourselves through the summer. If you're interested and available to help occasionally (takes about 8 minutes), please email [tymber@gerstlepark.com](mailto:tymber@gerstlepark.com) or call her at 415-459-4337.

The new B Street trees have recently had summer watering bags installed, and they are thriving. We've had many comments from residents about how pleased they are with the project. However, we recently received a call regarding bikes being chained to at least one of the trees. This is harmful to all trees, but particularly fatal to the soft bark of young trees. It's also a violation of San Rafael Municipal code 11.12.050. Please be kind to our street trees, and report any incidents you see of damaged bark, signs nailed on trees, bikes chained to trees, etc., to John Tune, Parks and Recreation Department, at 485-3375.

## **SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH ELEVENTH ANNUAL GERSTLE PARK GARAGE SALE**

What's a great way to have fun, meet your neighbors and make some money? By participating in the GPNA Eleventh Annual Garage Sale, on June 18th! It's time to go through all those treasures you may have hidden away in your closets, drawers, garage, and storage areas.

If you would like to participate, you have two options: you can have your garage sale at your home for a contribution of \$25. You'll have your address and location printed on the official GPNA sale map along with a description of the items you're selling, as well as ads in the IJ and a big orange sign to hang in your yard or outside your apartment. Option two is to reserve a space in Gerstle Park and bring your items there. You can have either a 6' by 12' space in the park for \$30, or a larger space of 6' by 20' for \$45 (the larger space will get more shopper traffic). The Garage Sale hub is at Gerstle Park, and more prospective shoppers will go there first.

To participate, fill out the registration form on the center page of this newsletter and send it to the address listed on the form *BEFORE JUNE 10th*, to be included in the neighborhood map. Any further questions can be addressed to Chandra Murphy at 482-8033, or email [murphdtm@yahoo.com](mailto:murphdtm@yahoo.com)

**EARTH DAY IN GERSTLE PARK**

In conjunction with the City of San Rafael and Keep California Beautiful, GPNA sponsored our first Neighborhood Earth Day event on April 23rd. Board member Tymber Cavasian and GPNA member Catherine Loudon headed up the effort. This year our focus was "Clean Up". Though a little short on planning time, we managed to field two very ambitious teams comprised of approximately 20 residents who cleaned up sidewalk areas, parking strips and litter. A special thank you goes to Center Point, who contributed approximately 8 volunteers to this effort. Though the event-day weather cooperated, the prior evening's wind and rain dumped a lot more debris onto the streets than anticipated, so the going was a little slow-it looked like fall again! We focused on D Street, Bayview Street above D, and First Street. In addition to the roving volunteers, several neighbors timed their own property cleanup perfectly, so the streets were looking pretty spiffy afterwards. The results of mowing, pulling weeds, picking up litter, sweeping and general cleanup makes a noticeable difference! The City contributed the cleanup bags, and the Department of Public Works hauled away the three rather large piles of debris. A big thanks to all who participated! Ideas for next year's Earth Day Beautification Project can be sent to [Tymber@gerstlepark.com](mailto:Tymber@gerstlepark.com).

**CENTER POINT, INC. - A GERSTLE PARK NEIGHBOR**

Center Point is a non-profit corporation providing comprehensive social, educational, vocational, psychological and rehabilitative services to individuals and families who are combating problems such as substance abuse, poverty, unemployment and homelessness. The organization, founded in 1971, operates a residential treatment facility at "D" and Francis Streets in Gerstle Park. Other Center Point treatment facilities are located elsewhere in Marin, Contra Costa, Solano, Riverside, San Joaquin, San Diego, and Sacramento counties. Center Point offers services aimed at ending cycles of individual and family abuse and disruption by providing training and support to restore self-worth and dignity.

Center Point has always helped out when asked by GPNA to provide volunteers for community projects such as Earth Day clean-up, open-space broom pulls, and even renovations of the playground at Gerstle Park. Their significant contributions often make these events successful! The Center Point residents who assist with our events have a terrific attitude and a zest for improving our community, and are a joy to be with and get to know. This is a real win-win situation for the neighborhood, and GPNA's ongoing good relationship with this valuable community resource is a plus for all of us. But because they are such a quiet and unassuming neighbor, you may not even be aware that they have been in their "D" Street residence for several years.

For holding to high community values, and for the help they unstintingly provide to their clients, we thank the leadership at Center Point- Jim Ricci, Supervisor of Operations, and Laura Lambe, Assistant Director. Thanks also to Dr. Sushma D. Taylor, Center Point's Executive Director, for her cooperation and enthusiastic support of neighborhood projects. Center Point truly provides a great example of how successful collaboration can work to bring people together and improve any neighborhood!

**GERSTLE PARK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

If you have an interest in Gerstle Park, and a little perseverance, you'll be amazed at what a difference you can make! GPNA needs your help! From our newsletter to our major events, everything we do is accomplished by the efforts and donations of our volunteers. Our GPNA Board directs and performs most of the work; but some of our committees, working on issues that are very important to our neighborhood, really need more participants. Anyone, homeowner or renter, can volunteer, either for a one-time event of particular interest to you, or as a long-term participant. Many people are more comfortable volunteering on an as-needed basis, so if you sign on as a volunteer and we subsequently call you, you can let us know whether or not you're interested and able to help at that particular time. To participate, you can sign up on our Volunteer List with a note about the types of things most interesting to you. We'll call when we need a hand. To sign up, contact [tymber@gerstlepark.com](mailto:tymber@gerstlepark.com).

A very rewarding way to be involved, if you have a bit more time and a specific area in which you'd like to make a difference, is to consider working on or chairing a GPNA committee. Currently, the following committees that have chairpersons but need volunteers are: Membership, Blue Ribbon Awards, Traffic, Newsletter, Website, City Government Liaison, Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods, and Code Advisory/Building Activity. Our Committees of Historic Preservation, Parking and Emergency Planning are currently without a chairperson. To chair a committee you do not have to be a Board member, but you must be a GPNA Member. Other possible efforts include: Litter, Trees/Open Space, Apartment/Business Liaison, Neighborhood Watch, etc. For more information on various committees, please visit our website at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com), or if you have an idea for something more that we could be doing, email [Tymber@gerstlepark.com](mailto:Tymber@gerstlepark.com). GPNA is effective only because volunteers step up and lend a hand. It's fun, it's appreciated, it's rewarding. Volunteering is a great way to enhance our terrific neighborhood! Please contact us and let us know how you'd like to get involved.

## Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA)

### Garage Sale Registration Form

Please complete the information below and return with your check (payable to GPNA and marked "Garage Sale") to:  
**GPNA, Attn: Garage Sale, P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915**

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

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

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

I plan to hold my garage sale:

- At my home or apartment building (\$25.00)  
 At Gerstle Park (\$30.00) 6' by 12' space  
 At Gerstle Park (\$45.00) 6' by 20" space  
 I cannot participate, but would like to make a food/drink/baked goods contribution.  
 I cannot do any of the above, but would like to make a donation to GPNA! My check for \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

List of items you want to include on the map (4-5 items maximum please):

If you're not already a current member of the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association, you may want to take this opportunity to become a member (or renew your expired membership) – Thanks!

- New Member     Renewal    Annual donation \$10.00 per household (\$5.00 Seniors) – 1 voting member  
 Term of memberships is from January 1 to January 1.

#### AMOUNT ENCLOSED

FOR GARAGE SALE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOR MEMBERSHIP: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, your garage sale registration is per family, even if more than one family participates at one location. Fees should be returned no later than June 10th to be included in the official map. All proceeds go directly toward GPNA neighborhood events.

### NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC SURVEY

Do you have difficulty crossing the street safely? Have you noticed an increase in traffic related noise? What about the increased number of cars passing your house? Do you have difficulty exiting your driveway?

Help us by completing this Neighborhood Traffic Survey.  
 Return by May 31st and be entered in our Drawing!!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(the above info is optional; however, it's necessary in order to participate in the drawing, and helpful if you're interested in future neighborhood traffic related info and updates. Your personal data will not be shared)

- 1) Is traffic in our neighborhood a significant enough problem that you would make an effort to change it (e.g. attend meeting(s), provide/collect data, write a letter, etc.)?    YES    NO
- 2) How do you get around our neighborhood? (circle all that apply)
- WALK   BIKE   WHEELCHAIR   DRIVE   Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What types of improvements would you support to improve traffic speed/safety? (circle all that apply)
- SIGNS   BARRIERS\*   SPEED HUMPS   STOP SIGNS    DON'T KNOW  
 SIGNALS   ENFORCEMENT   EDUCATION

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Directional barriers include anything that physically directs how cars move, e.g. planted islands, roundabouts, pillar type posts in the middle of the road, concrete planters, etc.

4) Of the Gerstle Park neighborhood traffic issues listed below, please indicate your view of their importance, using the following 1-5 scale:

- (1) Not applicable/I don't care    (2) Least important    (3) Somewhat important  
 (4) Very important    (5) Most important
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Speeding:   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Problem intersection at First and "C" Streets:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Other problem intersections:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Specify: _____  |   |   |   |   |   |
| • Drivers ignoring stop signs:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Drivers failing to yield to pedestrians:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Traffic shortcutting through the neighborhood to reach other destinations:              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Large commercial vehicles using secondary streets to shortcut through the neighborhood: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Lack of stop signs where needed:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Lack of marked crosswalks:  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| • Other issues: _____   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |



### SPRING FLING RECAP

The GPNA annual Spring Fling was once again a big success! Children found over 1200 eggs, met the Easter Bunny, and ate their fill of homemade cupcakes. Thanks to everyone who donated goodies or volunteered their time. GPNA looks forward to seeing you all next year. HOPPY SPRING!



cut here

Remember..return the survey by May 31st to be included in the drawing for a \$50 Gift Certificate for dinner at the Panama Hotel!

Fax: 415-459-4876, mail (fold for self-mailer and attach a stamp), or deliver in person to 22 Bayview Street and deposit in the wall drop-box on the porch; you can also email comments to [Tymber@gerstlepark.com](mailto:Tymber@gerstlepark.com)

fold here

place  
stamp  
here

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association  
ATTN: Traffic Committee  
P.O. Box 150644,  
San Rafael, CA 94915-0644

## UPDATE ON C STREET FLOODING PROBLEM

The next C Street/ Mahon Creek Flood Committee meeting with Andrew Preston, director of San Rafael Public Works Department, is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th, 7:00 P.M. at the B Street Community Center. Please come and participate. This will be our third neighborhood meeting with Mr. Preston. We are very pleased that he has been so responsive to our request for infrastructure improvements to reduce our local flooding problems. He is working with us to find low cost solutions which can be feasibly implemented, given the current budget constraints of the Public Works Department.

Over 25 neighbors attended our first meeting in February. After hearing our concerns, the Public Works Department

- Thoroughly cleaned the storm drains in the area.
- Trimmed branches and foliage impeding the flow of Mahon Creek in front of Wild Care.
- Removed silt at Lincoln Avenue and Mahon Creek.
- Began a dialogue with an engineer from SMART in regards to the removal of the railroad trestle and timber bulkheads at West Francisco, which are severely restricting the water flow from Mahon Creek into the bay.

At our second meeting, Andrew brought along Al Cornwall, owner of CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, who developed the original 1995 master plan for proposed drainage improvements for Mahon Creek. These plans have not yet been implemented, but we are working to initiate their implementation and to develop new solutions. The localized flooding problem has been identified to include roughly the area between 2nd, B, D and Taylor Streets.

We will be meeting every two months with Andrew Preston and Al Cornwall to receive a progress report and give our input. Andrew has been very impressed that our Flood Committee has educated itself so thoroughly. Thanks to all Flood Committee members! Keep in mind that we are competing for Andrew's attention, since there are many infrastructure projects in San Rafael that need improvements and funding. Our efforts to improve this local flooding problem would be greatly helped by including more members on the Committee. For information on how you can participate in the Flood Committee, please contact Mary Ann Nardo at mitnardo@jps.net.



## GPNA BLUE RIBBON AWARD

In the two years that Theron and Teri Yeager have owned 119 Clark St., an old (c. 1907 or so) two-storey craftsman-style home, they've done many needed repairs and updates, while being careful to keep the basic character of the house intact. Although the focus of this article is the exterior work that was recently completed, it should be mentioned that Theron and Teri have done extensive restorations inside as well. They refurbished a chimney and two fireplaces, restored old lighting fixtures by searching EBay and other Internet sources, and have added details and decorations that make the interior look quite authentic to the period of its construction.

The exterior work is both handsome and well-matched to the house. Theron explained that the driveway, which has new earth-toned concrete pavers, had to be replaced, because there was a rapidly deteriorating drainage system underneath. There was also a run-down shack at the back of the driveway, which has been torn down and replaced with a very attractive garage that looks like a carriage house, with a two-car garage below and an office and storage space above. This structure was shingled to match the relatively new brown shingles on the house, and it even has old-fashioned carriage-house lighting fixtures at either end, which Theron bought from Rejuvenation, a company that specializes in lighting fixture design from the Victorian era to the 50's.

In the back of the house there's an attractive and well-preserved old brick walkway leading up a few brick stairs to a back garden, and Theron enhanced their effect by adding a low wall of old-looking bricks on the side, as a border to the driveway.

A new system of French drains was laid down all around the garage, continuing under and on the sides of the new driveway.

On one side of the driveway there is now a tall row of yellow Marguerites, as well as a lemon tree and a Japanese maple, and some low-lying greenery and another Japanese maple on the other side. The front yard has climbing roses and a wisteria vine on either side of the staircase, and a well-kept lawn that goes down to the low concrete wall that runs the width of the property and abuts the sidewalk. Two stone pillars mark off the boundaries of the property, and Theron pointed out that the low wall and a few more such pillars continue in front of other properties along the street. He said this is due to the fact that much of that block was one whole estate in the past, and that his driveway was part of a long semi-circular carriage drive that led up to the main entrance of the estate.

Theron and Teri haven't had time yet to work on the planting strip at the curb, but they expect to get to it soon. Since there's a gas line as well as water under the strip, they will do a shallow dig and place stepping stones and gravel in that area, and perhaps a few plants.

We are happy to present this season's Blue Ribbon Award to Theron and Teri Yeager for all their carefully considered improvements, and for keeping intact the architectural spirit of their lovely old home.



**SRPD'S BEAT ONE SCHEDULE**

Here is the current schedule for the Beat One police officers for the months of March through September:

*Day shift:*

**Todd Berringer** - Mon, Tues, Wed. 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Email - todd.berringer@srdp.org

**William Drolla** - Thurs, Fri, Sat. 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Email- william.drolla@srdp.org

*Night Shift:*

**Daniel Hanlon** Mon, Tues, Wed. 5 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Email- daniel.hanlon@srdp.org

**Allan Castaneda** - Thurs, Fri, Sat. 5 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Email- allan.castaneda@srdp.org

If you have questions or comments about anything that should concern the police, you can email these officers at the above email addresses. Also, if you want information about recorded crime activity in the neighborhood, you can visit the **San Rafael Police Department - Beat Activity Report** here: <http://www.srdp.org/publicreports/BeatActivity.aspx>

**ARE YOU PLANNING TO BUILD A FENCE?**

Before starting construction of a fence, GPNA strongly suggests that you visit the Planning Department in City Hall. San Rafael has a very specific ordinance concerning types of materials used and heights allowed for building a fence.

Also, here's a related issue- most all the lots in Gerstle Park have a City-owned planter strip between the front property line and the sidewalk. This strip is usually about 18 inches wide, but can be as wide as five feet. Planter strips provide visual continuity to neighborhood streets as well as a visual relief from structures abutting sidewalks. They also afford an opportunity for beautification and "curb appeal". Some owners have mistakenly incorporated this planter strip into their front yard, but you should be aware that the City requires fences to be on privately owned property.

**SPRING BROOM PULL A SUCCESS!**

On March 12th, GPNA sponsored the French Broom Pull in the open space area adjacent to Gerstle Park, extending from D Street to Makin Grade to Grove Street. About 18 volunteers accomplished a record amount of work for a one-day effort, clearing a huge area of French broom that had been choking out native growth. GPNA even provided lunch for everyone! The weather cooperated, so it was not only a productive day, but a day of beautiful spring weather that was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to all those who participated and helped to make this needed effort successful, especially to the cheerful and hardworking volunteers from Center Point!


**2005-2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- June 2:** Monthly Meeting - 7PM\*
- June 18:** Annual Garage Sale
- July 7:** Monthly Meeting - 7PM\*
- August 4:** Monthly Meeting - 7PM\*
- September 1:** Monthly Meeting - 7PM\*
- September 15:** Annual Picnic - 6-9PM
- October 6:** Monthly Meeting - 7PM\*
- October 31:** Halloween Decorating Contest
- November 3:** Monthly Meeting - 7PM\*
- December 1:** Monthly Meeting - 7PM\*
- December 15:** Christmas Caroling
- December 20-30:** Holiday Decorating Contest
- January 5:** Monthly Meeting - 7PM\*
- January 26:** Annual Meeting

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

- Cultural Affairs Commission - 1st Wednesday
- Design Review Board - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
- City Council - 1st & 3rd Mondays
- Planning Commission - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
- Fed. of S.R. Neighborhoods - 3rd Tuesday

\* Guests are Welcome! If you desire to address the GPNA Board of Directors, wish to attend a meeting or need more information on Gerstle Park Events or Community Meetings, below, please contact Chandra Murphy at 415-482-8033 or Tymber Cavasian via email: [tymber@gerstlepark.com](mailto:tymber@gerstlepark.com)



**GPNA Quarterly Newsletter 2005**  
 Number 2 of 4  
*All articles written by GPNA members.*  
 Editor: Lilian Walters • Layout: Ken Goudey

Reproduction by Office Depot • approximately \$400 /1600 copies.