

SAVE THE DATE:

## **SATURDAY JUNE 17<sup>th</sup>, 8-3PM GPNA NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE GARAGE SALE**

It's time to empty your closets and storage areas, and sell all that old but good stuff that's been taking up space for too long! Last year, folks cleared out their basements and cupboards and replaced that "stuff" with some CASH. In addition, the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association was able to fund several neighborhood events from garage sale registration and proceeds!!

**On June 17<sup>th</sup>**, GPNA is sponsoring our 12th Annual Garage Sale at participating residences throughout the neighborhood. This is a coordinated and publicized neighborhood-wide garage sale that will attract hopeful bargain hunters from all over. There is sure to be someone who wants the tricycle your little one has just outgrown, that exercise machine that is perhaps a little bit dusty or that comfortable chair that you just replaced, plus it's a great chance to get out and mix with your neighbors and meet new folks while helping out our Neighborhood!

**Here's how it works:** The sale, organized by GPNA, will focus this year on bringing lots of buyers to this neighborhood-wide garage sale extravaganza, instead of focusing on any one central location. Also, this year we're rolling back the registration amount to \$20, and increasing the publicity in order to help make this garage sale event a smashing success for sellers, buyers and the whole neighborhood.

For just a \$20 donation to GPNA, you can be on the official sale map of participants and join in the fun! You'll enjoy the benefits of lots of shoppers pulled in by our coordinated publicity in the IJ, Craigslist, several community events lists, flier bulletins, website, and large signs to hang at your garage or apartment identifying you as a GPNA supporter and participant. The publicity will include clear directions and instructions about where to obtain GPNA Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale maps. The maps will be available at buyer information stands located at **1st and D, San Rafael Ave. and D, and Bayview and B.**

To be included on the official map, you **MUST register before June 10<sup>th</sup>**. Your \$20 registration fee (1) puts your address on the Map, (2) gets your sale items listed, (3) provides you with an official event lawn sign, (4) provides you with coordinated advertising and (5) helps to support GPNA. Late registrations past June 10<sup>th</sup> are okay and will get a lawn sign but won't have items or address listed on the Official Map. The registration fees pay for the ads, the maps and the signs, with all remaining proceeds going to support the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association. Of course, all the proceeds from your sale are yours to keep!!

Or, if you don't want to run a garage sale but do have a few quality items, you can donate those items to the GPNA. Drop off information is on the registration form and those items will be sold the day of the sale at the GPNA table with any proceeds used to support GPNA activities and newsletter.

**To participate:** Just fill out the registration form found in this newsletter or available at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com), and mail it with your check marked "Garage Sale" to the address on the form. Please remember: garage sale registration forms must be returned **no later than June 10<sup>th</sup>** to be included on the official map. If you have any questions, please contact **Nancy Otto** at 453-2013 or [nancy.otto@gerstlepark.com](mailto:nancy.otto@gerstlepark.com)

### **NEW TRAFFIC SIGNS AT FIRST AND C STREETS**

The GPNA Traffic Committee is happy to report that as you drive through the intersection at 1st and C Streets, you will notice new signs that should help improve safety in this most confusing intersection, which has been a long-standing source of near-misses and actual accidents. The Department of Public Works has just installed yellow signs for northbound motorists on C Street, and westbound motorists on 1st Street, which state that motorists traveling east (from D Street toward Safeway) do not stop. Future improvements include larger stop signs as well. We hope that motorists and nearby residents will notice improvement in through traffic and a safer crossing of this intersection as a result of these long-needed signs.

### **SPRING FLING RECAP**

Once again, GPNA's annual Spring Fling was a huge success! The weather stayed nice for the occasion, and participating children were able to find over 1500 eggs, meet the Easter Bunny, and eat their fill of cupcakes. Thanks to everyone who donated goodies or volunteered their time, especially **Olivia Jew** and **Robert Matos**. GPNA looks forward to seeing you all next year. **HOPPY SPRING!**

### **WANT TO GET OUR NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?**

Just submit your email address to [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) and we'll email each issue to you. It's easy, and completely confidential. Your email address **will not** be used for any other purpose, and you won't have to miss out on the latest neighborhood news in the event that a paper copy doesn't arrive at your home. Please note that the newsletter is in PDF format, which is easy to download from Adobe Acrobat Reader.

### A HANDY WHO TO CALL LIST Helpful Neighborhood Service Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	485-3033
Building Inspection/Permits	485-3365
Business Licenses	485-3051
Center Point Neighborhood Liaison	456-3036
City Attorney	485-3080
City Clerk	485-3066
City Manager	485-3070
City of SR Police	485-3000
Code Enforcement	458-5038
Comcast	459-5333
Community Center	485-3333
Community Development	485-3085
Earthquake Supply Center	459-5500
Emergency Operations Coordinator	485-3475
Fire Chief	485-3304
Graffiti Hotline	485-5326
Marin General Hospital	925-7000
Marin IJ	883-8600
Marin Recycling	453-1404
Marin Sanitary Service	456-2601
MMWD	945-1455
MMWD Emergency	945-1500
Parking Issues	458-5333
PG&E	800-743-5000
Planning Dept.	485-3085
Potholes	485-1735
Public Library	485-3323
Public Works	485-3355
Public Works Emergency	485-3385
San Rafael Chamber of Commerce	454-4163
Traffic Unit	485-3034

Other useful info can be found on the  
*San Rafael City website* at:  
[www.cityofsanrafael.org](http://www.cityofsanrafael.org)

### CORRECTION/ RETRACTION

In our last issue, we stated that the resignation of two former Board members was brought about by health issues. This was incorrect, and we regret any inconvenience and/or embarrassment this may have caused them.

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: ARE YOU READY?

Are you prepared for the possibility of a disaster in your immediate area that could isolate you for two or three days? Do you have an emergency preparedness kit at home or in your workplace? Too many people put off preparing for such an eventuality or think that they would be able to depend on others at such a time. But remember, your neighbors will probably be in the same boat and won't be able to help you; and the police may have their hands full keeping order and helping the injured, etc. The time to prepare for a disaster is before it happens! A complete emergency preparedness kit sufficient to get an adult through at least three days after a disaster provides essential items that can be stored at home. Ideally another such kit should be stored at your workplace. Your emergency kit is especially important if local authorities require you to evacuate. Basic items needed are as follows:

- **Flashlight:** do not use candles or any other open flame for emergency lighting.
- **Battery powered radio:** radio reports will give you essential information about the areas most affected, and what you should do next.
- **Plastic sheeting and duct tape** for use as shelter.
- **Food:** ready to eat canned meat, fruits and vegetables, canned juices, and high energy foods (granola bars, energy bars, etc.), and as few perishables as possible. Rotate food about every 6 months, and don't forget the can opener!
- **Water:** at least one gallon (for one adult - three days); store in plastic containers, and avoid using containers that will decompose or break. Rotate every 6 months.
- **Medication:** Include both prescription and non-prescription medication that you usually take. Be aware of expiration dates.
- **Paper plates, cups, plastic utensils, plastic garbage bags.**

For more information you can visit the Red Cross website, at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

GPNA also recommends that you take the **Disaster Area Response Training (DART)** given by the San Rafael Fire Department. This 8-week course, generally given one night per week, is an extremely valuable tool to teach you how to survive a disaster. It will also provide you with training on how to help your neighborhood during a disaster situation. At this writing, the contact person at the San Rafael Fire Dept. is **Diane Toci, at 485-3308.**

### 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 am holding a sale!** \$20 Registration & Include these items on the map/advertising (4-5 max, please):

**I cannot have a sale but have a few quality items I want to donate to the GPNA table.**

I will bring them to 22 Bayview Street (*next door to the Panama Hotel*) on Thursday, June 15th OR to the GPNA table located at the Panama Hotel by 7:30 AM day-of-sale. Any unsold items may be donated per GPNA discretion.

**I would like to make a donation to GPNA.** My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

**If you're not already a current member of the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association,** please take this opportunity to become a member (or renew your membership for 2006) – *Thanks!*

New Member     Renewal    Annual donation \$15.00 per household (\$10.00 Seniors)  
Term of membership: January 1 through December 31.

#### AMOUNT ENCLOSED

FOR GARAGE SALE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FOR MEMBERSHIP: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(All proceeds go toward GPNA neighborhood events)

If you need more information or have questions, please contact Nancy Otto at 453-2013 or [nancy.otto@gerstlepark.com](mailto:nancy.otto@gerstlepark.com)

#### Sellers: Dates to Save and Mark on Your Calendar:

- **June 10th** - Registrations must be returned no later than Saturday, June 10th to be included in the official map (earlier let's us do more complete advertising of your items).
- **June 14th** - Pick up your GPNA location sign at the B Street Community Center, 6-8PM. You can also pick your sign up Saturday morning starting 7:30 at the GPNA table outside the Panama, BUT we encourage participants to pick up the signs on Wednesday and post them early to help promote the event.
- **June 15th** – Drop off any donation items to 22 Bayview Street, 4-7PM
- **June 17th** – SALE DAY!! 8-3PM
- **Post-Sale:** Cleanup & please **return your sign to 21 Frances Street** (front porch) so GPNA can re-use them.

**GPNA MEMBERSHIP:****A FEW BUCKS CAN STILL BUY A LOT!**

These days, isn't it great when you find a place where a few dollars still buy a lot? That's true of membership in the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association!

**GPNA Members get:****A great way to connect with neighbors and resources.**

If you need assistance with a problem concerning your property, or if you have a question pertaining to life in the neighborhood, GPNA is your personal 'go to' place. We make it our business to know the local requirements regarding building alterations, parking enforcement codes, noise regulations, etc. We can often save you time and hassle by pointing you in the right direction for answers to your questions.

**A vote to elect your GPNA Board.** These are the people who represent Gerstle Park, provide guidance to committees working on neighborhood issues and events, and ensure that GPNA is meeting the mission of maintaining and enhancing our neighborhood's character and livability.

**Participation in setting the year's priorities for GPNA.**

While GPNA's mission guides our Board of Directors, priority for an issue concerning the neighborhood is based not just upon resources at hand, but also on the input of current members, who help decide those priorities.

**The creative talent, experience and hard work of your Board,** and of GPNA's various committees and volunteers, all of whom donate their time and efforts to work on your behalf.

**Important neighborhood-related information** and news of upcoming events, distributed via GPNA's membership email list, including items requiring a membership vote.

**The power of an organized group.** While GPNA is not a political organization, it's undeniable that more members equal more voice when it comes to ensuring our neighborhood interests get representation with larger decision-making bodies like the City government, County Supervisor and larger resident neighborhood groups. Being organized means it's easier to meet challenges when they come up. Examples have been emergency preparedness and fundraising for needed items like the portable defibrillator GPNA recently presented to our Beat One officers to provide adequate first response in emergencies. Other examples include GPNA's joint work with City officials regarding the Neighborhood Plan, as well as input to the City's General Plan.

**A real sense of community.** Membership dollars provide funding for printing and distributing GPNA's quarterly newsletter, and for all of GPNA's activities and annual events like Spring Fling, Picnic, Caroling and Garage Sale. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and have some fun!

**Neighborhood improvement projects.** The more GPNA can collaborate with the neighborhood, the more we can accomplish together. Money and people power do bring more improvements to our neighborhood! Past projects have included better play areas at Gerstle Park, the restoration of the park's beloved dragon, street tree installations, bulb planting, and much, much more.

**That's a lot for a \$15 dollar donation (\$10 for seniors).** Whether you own, rent, or run a business in Gerstle Park, your membership in GPNA and your participation in our efforts are of great value to the whole neighborhood. If you are not yet a member, you can sign up by using the form featured in this newsletter, or by going to our website at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com).

**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: **\$15.00** per household ( **\$10.00** seniors) - 1 voting member

Payment Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Term of membership is from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>

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

Welcome to GPNA!

## THE NEW MARIN HISTORY MUSEUM

Construction is expected to begin later this year for a new museum here in San Rafael, which will be devoted exclusively to Marin County's history, art and culture. This new, 7500-square-foot structure will be modern in style, and will abut a hillside in Boyd Park west of the Boyd Gate House, a Victorian mansion at the intersection of B Street and Mission Ave., which was formerly part of the Boyd family estate that included Maple Lawn (now the Elks Club). Although the mansion, which dates from 1879, is a beautiful example of Victorian style, it can provide neither the space nor the climate control necessary for the display and preservation of old and sometimes fragile artifacts of a bygone age, especially photographs. Because of the need for climate control, the present museum's collection of old and irreplaceable photos, maps, records, etc. is being stored temporarily in a climate-controlled warehouse until the new museum is finished.

As of now, the Marin History Museum, formerly the Marin County Historical Society, needs about \$1.6 million dollars more in order to break ground for the new building, which will feature climate-controlled display spaces for historically significant artifacts, a multi-media education center, a gift shop, and two exterior landscaped terraces with seasonal plantings. A rooftop garden surrounding a raised skylight will connect with Boyd Park, and an adjacent courtyard and plaza will feature trees and plants that will blend with the existing landscape. The old Boyd Gate House will then be furnished on the first floor as a period home with the other floors used for administrative offices and research.

Although the museum lies geographically outside the boundaries of Gerstle Park, its importance in terms of historical preservation certainly makes it worthy of mention to our readers. The museum's Board of Directors would like to encourage anyone who possesses old documents, photos, furniture and other articles of possible historical importance to consider donating them to the museum's collection. Articles for donation don't have to be antiques; historical relevance to Marin County is the most important consideration. To offer a donation, contact the museum's curator, Marcia Eymann, at 485-0164, or email her at [Marcia@marinhistory.org](mailto:Marcia@marinhistory.org).

General information about the new museum, or information about becoming a member and/or volunteer, can be found at their website, [www.marinhistory.org](http://www.marinhistory.org). Membership starts at \$30 per year, and includes a subscription to their newsletter, as well as invitations to special programs and events. The Boyd Gate House is open Tue & Fri, 9-Noon and Wed & Thu 9-4. Current exhibits include "Louise Arner Boyd: Marin's Arctic Explorer" and conceptual drawings of the new Marin History Museum. Tel. 415-454-8538.

*The following article is the first of what we hope will be a series of stories about lovely old homes in Gerstle Park and the people who have lived in them. Because of the richness of detail provided by the writer, this story's length precludes our presenting it here in its entirety, so rather than abridge the life out of it we've decided to continue it on our website at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com).*

### A HOUSE AND ITS HISTORY:

#### 255 D STREET

My husband and I first met Miss Evelyn Fletcher in 1972, when we bought our house on San Rafael Avenue. Miss Fletcher had been born in a lovely old Victorian home nearby, at 255 D Street, on the southwest corner of D Street and San Rafael Avenue, and had lived there all her life at the time we met her. She never married, and had worked only briefly. She frequently came by on walks with her dog, and would stop to chat with us. We learned a lot about her circumstances and her family, and about her knowledge of the town and her strong connection to it. Miss Fletcher had always lived a quiet, respectable life, and spent it taking care of her beloved home and family. Once she let me in to show me her many old family photographs. There was one showing my own house, and I wanted to have it copied, but she was reluctant to lend it to me. "My mother told me never to let these photographs out of my possession", she said, and it was obvious that what Mother said was the law.

Much later, in an unexpected way, I came into possession of her extraordinary collection of photos, postcards, mementoes, ledgers, letters and documents--all tantalizing fragments of 110 years of neighborhood history. It came about in this way:

As Miss Fletcher's health declined and her dog died, the walks by our house became fewer, and then stopped. One day I spotted a startling sight- a strange man was hauling things out of her house and throwing them into the back of a truck! Appalled, I questioned him and learned that Evelyn had been taken to a rest home at state expense because she could no longer care for herself. The State of California had taken possession of her assets and had removed everything considered to be of value. All that was left was going to the garbage dump! I explained to the man that I simply had to rescue certain items of historical value, and dashed into the house to see if I could find the photographs and documents. To my great relief, I did--three whole boxes of them. I held on to them, for Evelyn and her mother and for myself, and Evelyn Fletcher eventually died in 1987.

Now it is many years later, and it is the writer herself who is a long-time neighborhood resident. The old Fletcher house at 255 D Street is still there, but its dynamic has

shifted considerably from its first 110 years. The pictures and documents that define the lives of the first family who lived there will now go to the Marin History Museum. And a lesson is learned: label your old photos!

To read the rest of this fascinating history, which dates back to the 1870's, go to [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com).

Our thanks to Cynthia Landecker, resident and enthusiastic Gerstle Park history buff, for contributing this very interesting story- and for rescuing from oblivion a treasure of memories.

Do you know of an old neighborhood home with an interesting history? Our newsletter editor would love to hear about it, and would enjoy creating an article from your info and memories! Contact **Lil Walters** at 459-7252, or email her at [liljohn4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:liljohn4@sbcglobal.net).



### **BLUE RIBBON AWARD FOR NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT**

Hugo Landecker, a longtime resident of Gerstle Park, was recently recognized by the San Rafael Volunteer Program for his tireless work towards controlling the spread of French broom, an aggressive, non-native plant which invades the hillsides surrounding our neighborhood. French broom is a shallow-rooted plant with seeds that can live in the ground for thirty to fifty years. The trees can reach thirty feet in height, with trunks 5 inches in diameter. Before this project was started, our open space was inaccessible, and most neighborhood residents didn't even know it was there. Now it's used daily by dog walkers, hikers and bicyclists.

Hugo works one hour every day pulling French broom, using only his hands, never herbicides. He compares his volunteer work to a daily exercise regimen as he works up a sweat pulling up the invasive weed on the hills above Gerstle Park.

GPNA sponsors a French broom clean-up day every year, and Hugo has been the chairperson and organizer of this event for many years. This year, with the help of other neighborhood residents as well as clients from Center Point, just one Saturday's work made a sizeable dent in the French broom invasion. A big thanks from GPNA to this dedicated Gerstle Park resident, who really deserves our Blue Ribbon Award!

## **SRPD BEAT PATROLS FOR GERSTLE PARK**



### **Beat One**

*Dayshift Mon-Wed:* Officer Bill Drolla  
*Dayshift Tue-Thur:* Officer Chris Sweeney  
*Nightshift Mon-Wed:* Officer Chuck Tirre  
*Nightshift Tue-Thur:* Officer Kevin MacDougald

### **Beat Two**

*Dayshift Mon-Wed:* Officer Lance (Bubba) Ratto  
*Dayshift Tue-Thur:* Officer Rob Cleland (*New officer*)  
*Nightshift Mon-Wed:* Officer Aaron Piombo  
*Nightshift Tue-Thur:* Officer Phil Melodia

- The teams share Sunday duty in a rotation pattern.
- This schedule will be in effect until September.

To contact an officer, call the SRPD's non-emergency number, 485-3000, and ask for him by name. In an emergency call 911.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

GPNA's event season is upon us! Would you like to volunteer your help at the upcoming **GPNA Neighborhood Garage Sale** event scheduled for **June 17th**? We need you! There's a variety of things you can do, such as handing out our site maps, directing people to various sale sites, delivering and/or picking up those big garage sale signs that we lend to sale participants, carrying coolers and foodstuffs, on-site cooking, helping to clean up afterwards, etc. Please contact us now at [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com), and volunteer your help at this important event. You'll have fun and meet your neighbors, and you'll be doing something good for the whole neighborhood!

## **AND ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY....**

Do you have technical expertise with internet and html? We need some help and advice from someone knowledgeable in this area. Projects range from small one-time consults for learning how to embed a logo in our general emails to ongoing assistance for projects like expanding our website. Please let us know of your interest and talents. Your help will be greatly appreciated! Email us at [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com)



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