

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association

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



Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2009



JUNE MEANS: GARAGE SALE!

Every June the GPNA puts on it's very popular garage sale. This year is no different. Mark your calendars Saturday June 20th is the date. I'm sure you can find plenty of items in the garage or around the house you've been looking forward to parting with and make a little money.

Listed below this announcement is our registration form for your involvement. Participating in this event has its benefits. Each participant will receive a yard sign and be included on our neighborhood map which highlights a few major items for sale and the address and a street map for shoppers who don't know our streets as well as we do. We also advertise in the IJ and run Craig's List ads and hang street signs around the neighborhood. This event is GPNA's largest fund raising event of the year. Any

monies left over go to help fund the newsletters, the web site, Easter egg hunt and the annual picnic we provide at no charge. So please support the GPNA and register for this fine event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

As your current President of the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association, I am sounding the call for members of our great organization to volunteer their time to assist our Board of Directors. We have had a major exodus of board members this year and we are down to five total board members. We have a very wide range of business we conduct each month. Easter egg hunt, garage sale, neighborhood picnic, our own website and quarterly newsletters are widely known. Lesser known business involves street traffic, sewer laterals, the homeless, planning

& development, open space & trails and how city hall decisions impacts our neighborhood. As you can see we need more than 5 board members to cover all these pieces of business. Feel free to contact me with any ideas you may have.

Bob Beyea, President
bobbeyea@yahoo.com

GPNA Garage Sale Registration Form

Complete this form and return it with your check for \$20, payable to "GPNA" and marked "Garage Sale," to:
GPNA, Attn: Garage Sale, P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

I am holding a sale! Please include these items on the map/advertising (list 4-5 items):

I would like to make a donation to GPNA. My check is enclosed.

Registrations must be received by Monday, June 15th. On Thursday, June 18 you can pick up your location sign at 32 Clorinda Ave between 5 and 8PM. After the Sale please return your sign to 32 Clorinda Ave (it will be re-used).

If you have any questions you can contact Tracy Loy at 408-960-9370.

SPECIAL THANKS



Our annual Spring Fling event was an amazing success this year! We could not have made it possible without the help of several San Rafael businesses. Thank you to Muffin Mania, located at 2 Bayview Street admired (where Muffin Mania's new façade and remodeling are in progress), for supplying the tasty muffins and to Aroma Café, located at 1122 4th Street, for supplying the much-needed coffee to the adults. GPNA would also like to thank the help our friends from Centerpoint gave to us at the egg hunt.

GERSTLE PARK & DOWNTOWN HISTORY WALKS COMING UP

The Marin History Museum is sponsoring a history walk of San Rafael's Gerstle Park neighborhood on Saturday, June 27. Volunteer residents Hugo and Cynthia Landecker will lead an hour-long exploration of the rich and lovely variety of historic architectural styles in Gerstle Park's core area. We will be looking at fancy Victorians of the late 19th century, turn-of-the-century Shingle styles, early twentieth century Arts and Crafts bungalows, and finally the interesting era of 1920's-1930's revival styles. These are the homes that give the Gerstle Park neighborhood its character and its sense of timelessness.

If you would like to come, you are invited to meet at 10 a.m. at the entrance steps of Gerstle Park proper, on San Rafael Avenue between Marin and Clark Streets. The Marin History Museum is asking for \$5 for non-members, but no charge for members. Wear comfortable shoes, sunscreen, and hats!

Please call the Landeckers at (415) 456-0221 by June 20 to reserve a space - or for more information.

Marin History Museum is also holding monthly summer walks to explore San Rafael's colorful past in its historic downtown area. We will learn about the still-existing grand estates of 19th century business leaders, the Mission build-

ings that connect us to San Rafael's Spanish and Mexican past, and the hopeful era of the 19th century and its imposing business buildings. These walks will be held on the third Saturday of the month, May through September. Participants will meet at the Boyd Gate House, 1125 B Street at 10 a.m. These walks will also last about an hour. The cost is \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members of MHM.

Information is available at Marin History Museum at (415) 454-8538 or on its website at www.marinhistory.org

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC - CHANGE IS COMING!

As you may know, GPNA members have been pursuing positive changes to dangerous elements of our neighborhood street pattern and pedestrian landscape. Years of effort are about to pay off this June.

Two-way traffic will be restored to D Street between First and Second Streets so that vehicles descending from Wolfe Grade will be able to directly access the Second Street arterial. Additionally, all vehicles will be required to stop at the corner of First and C Street where all-way stop signs will be installed. These changes were designed to primarily address the following problems:

- 1) Increase pedestrian and vehicle safety at the corner of First and C Streets, and
- 2) Direct the high volume of Wolfe Grade/D Street traffic toward the city's larger streets and away from the interior Gerstle Park neighborhood streets.

This solution was well reviewed within our community. In the spring/summer of 2008, GPNA Board and traffic committee members attended an exhaustive series of meetings with the City's traffic engineers and City Manager to agree upon an effective and desirable proposal. This proposal was then brought before the neighborhood in a series of two meetings hosted jointly by GPNA and the City, where it received overwhelming support. Then on December 15, 2008 the City Council approved the proposal and funding for its implementation.

Implementation of the changes was scheduled for March/April, 2009. However, City staff inform us that "because of the President's Economic Stimulus Package, and other financially sensitive projects with very tight schedules we re-direct(ed) most of our engineering resources to work on those projects." But City staff also reports that the Gerstle Park project is fully funded and

they are nearly ready to bid the project. Pending bidding, the City should have a contractor on board to start the project in June.

In addition to the major improvements on First, D and C Streets, the City is in the process of addressing a list of 21 issues the GPNA submitted for attention. While it does not look like all of the items will receive attention from the City, they have agreed to review and respond to each item.

The Traffic Committee has not met since the City Council approved the First, D and C Streets plan. Interested neighbors are welcome to join/revive the traffic committee in the coming months to review the impact of these changes and follow up on outstanding potential street-related concerns in our neighborhood.

Keep your eyes peeled for new traffic signs. And remember to drive slowly and safely in your neighborhood.

NEW ARBOR IN GERSTLE PARK



The Gerstle Park neighborhood would like to give special thanks to John Massucco & Camilo Bayot of the Public Works Department of San Rafael for their fine work in the park as well as the building of our new arbor.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lots of interesting stuff! Here is a calendar of the events and activities that are upcoming during the remainder of the year in our Gerstle Park neighborhood and in the downtown San Rafael area.

June 2009

June 4, 11, 18 & 25 - Downtown Farmers' Market Festival 6-9pm

June 12 - Second Friday Art Walk

June 13 & 14 - Youth in Arts Italian Street Painting Festival

June 20 - Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association Garage Sale

June 20 - Walking Tours in Downtown San Rafael

June 27 - Gerstle Park Walking Tour

July 2009

July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 - Downtown Farmers' Market Festival 6-9pm

July 10 - Second Friday Art Walk

July 11 - San Rafael Twilight Criterium Bike Race

July 18 - Walking Tours in Downtown San Rafael

August 2009

Aug. 6, 13, 20 & 27 - Downtown Farmers' Market Festival 6-9pm

Aug. 14 - Second Friday Art Walk

Aug. 15 - Walking Tours in Downtown San Rafael

Aug. 15 - San Rafael's Food & Wine Festival at Falkirk

September 2009

Sept. 3, 10, 17 & 24 - Downtown Farmers' Market Festival 6-9pm

Sept. 11 - Second Friday Art Walk

Sept. 19 - Walking Tours in Downtown San Rafael

Sept. 20 - GPNA Annual Picnic

October 2009

Oct. 8 to 18 - Mill Valley Film Festival at the Smith Rafael Film Center

Oct. 9 - Second Friday Art Walk

Oct. 17 - Walking Tours in Downtown San Rafael

Oct. 24 & 25 - Marin's Glorious Glass Pumpkin Harvest

Oct. 31 - Halloween Decorating Contest

Oct. 31 - Trick or Treat Down Fourth Street

November 2009

Nov. 13 - Second Friday Art Walk

Nov. 27 & 28 - Parade of Lights and Winter Wonderland

December 2009

Dec. 4 - Victorian Holiday & Dickens Celebration

Dec. 11 - Second Friday Art Walk

Dec. 12 & 13 - Teddy Bear tea at Falkirk

SHORT SCHOOL UPDATE

A few months ago the GPNA asked San Rafael Schools Superintendent Michael Watenpaugh about concerns that Short Elementary School might be sold to a private developer. There were no such plans.

Recently there has been consideration given to the possible reopening of Short School to regular classes because of increased enrollment in kindergarten through fifth grade. However, it has been decided that the increased enrollment can be absorbed in other schools; Short School will not be reopened as a regular school in the fall.

At present the County is renting space at Short School for special education classes. Keystone Schools, the private organization that had been providing services to students throughout Marin with serious learning problems, is long gone.

Local residents have noted that the school district maintenance crew deserves credit for a big improvement in the litter problem at the school. The sense of neglect has evaporated.

COSTLY SEWER PIPES

The last GPNA newsletter included an article about a Clorinda Avenue homeowner who was hit with a bill for just under \$17,000 to pay for digging up the street to repair a "sewer lateral." Many people do not know that it is the owner who is responsible for maintaining the four- inch pipe which runs from the house to the main sewer pipe that tracks down the middle of the street.

Some sanitary districts in Marin assist homeowners in paying for the repair of sewer laterals. Ross Valley is

implementing a plan to pay one-half of the cost of a repair up to a certain amount, yet to be determined. Sausalito and the Tam Valley District have loan programs that ease the burden for the homeowner.

San Rafael is different; no partial subsidies or loans are provided. Instead, the City has embarked on an 80-year program to replace sewer mains and "lower" sewer laterals. That is, the City is replacing that portion of the sewer lateral that runs from the main sewer pipe to the sidewalk. It is likely to be a number of years before the 80-year program starts in Gerstle Park. Currently, the homeowner with one living unit is being assessed \$44.95 a month for sanitation services; roughly one-third of that amount is paying for the long-range sewer pipe replacement.

If you have questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 485-3374.

GPNA CALENDAR

June 3	Wed	Board of Directors Meeting
June 20	Sat	Neighborhood Garage Sale
July 1	Wed	Board of Directors Meeting
August 5	Wed	Board of Directors Meeting
September 2	Wed	Board of Directors Meeting
September 20	Sun	Annual Picnic
October 7	Wed	Board of Directors Meeting
October 31	Sat	Hallowe'en Contest Judging
November 4	Wed	Board of Directors Meeting
December 2	Wed	Board of Directors Meeting
December		Christmas Caroling (TBD)
January 6	Wed	Board of Directors Meeting
January 28	Thu	Annual Meeting

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

Membership Year Runs from January 1st through December 31st

Individual: One Voting Member: \$15.00 (\$10.00 Seniors Age 65 or Older)

Household: Two Voting Members: \$20.00 (\$15.00 Seniors)

New Member ♦ Renewal

Gerstle Park T-SHIRTS: Child & Adult \$15ea. _____ / _____
 Quantity Size

Additional Donation: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

Do you wish to receive our quarterly newsletter via email instead of home delivery? Yes ♦ No

Are you interested in volunteering? Yes ♦ No