



## Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association

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

<http://www.gerstlepark.com>

Winter, 1999

# News

## Gerstle Park Annual Picnic

What a difference a year makes. The weather finally treated us to a warm and beautiful day for the GPNA Annual Picnic. The combination of the extraordinarily beautiful weather, delicious food, highly entertaining jumping balloon (which kept the kids busy all afternoon), fun games, an exciting raffle, a great band and an exceptional turnout of neighbors conspired to give us the best annual picnic in recent memory.



Left to Right: Terry Barday, Frances Casey, Eric MacAusland

Many thanks to our volunteers Gerry Paratore, Scott Paratore, Lauren Metzroth, Craig MacDougal, Roger Coale, and Sandy Baker who pitched in to make this such a successful and memorable event.

Special thanks to The Gerstle Park Inn for their donation of a night's stay as a raffle prize. We also want to extend our thanks to our wonderful San Rafael Fire Department. Not only were you the highlight of the day for many of our children, but you also saved the day by setting up and loaning us your generator. The kids were all devastated when the jumping balloon fell flat and uproarious when you guys got it back up!

Due to the large attendance at the picnic, membership in the GPNA is steadily growing. We want to thank all new members for deciding to become a part of our GPNA. We appreciate and need your support!

Keep your fingers crossed for next year and with any luck from the weather gods we will see you all again next year on a warm, sunny afternoon...

## Holiday Caroling

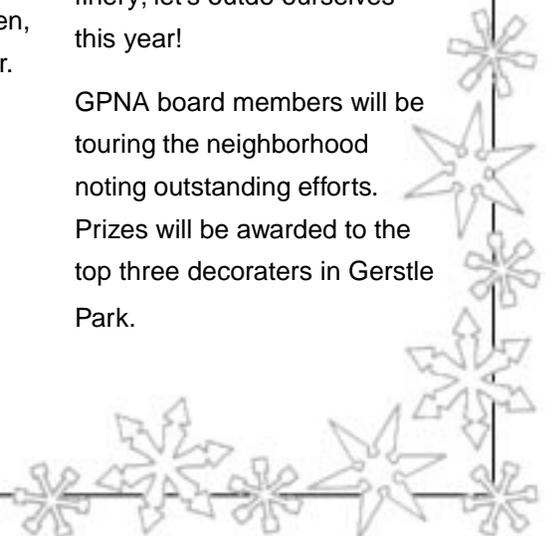
The annual holiday caroling will be Thursday, Dec. 16, led once again by the talented guitar playing of neighbor Larry Zee.

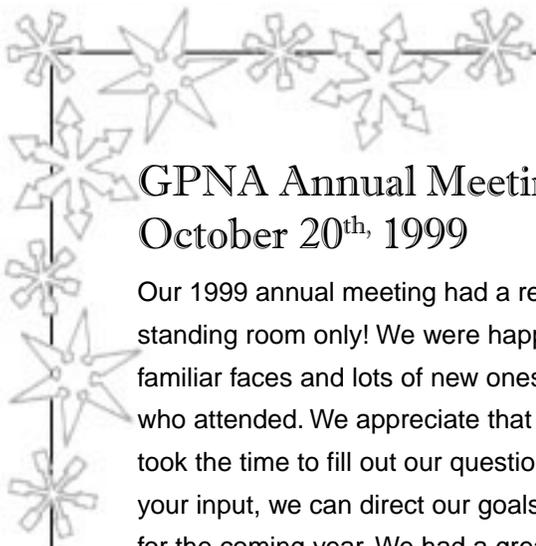
Meet at Short School at 7 p.m. for some great choral community spirit; afterward there will be festive cookies and hand-warming hot cider for all at Short School. Song books are supplied; bring your own candles or flashlights if you want them.

## Holiday Decorating Contest

December is here, and with it the GPNA's annual holiday decorating contest. Our neighborhood is famous for its twinkling lights and holiday finery; let's outdo ourselves this year!

GPNA board members will be touring the neighborhood noting outstanding efforts. Prizes will be awarded to the top three decorators in Gerstle Park.





## GPNA Annual Meeting, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999

Our 1999 annual meeting had a record turnout, standing room only! We were happy to see many familiar faces and lots of new ones. We thank all who attended. We appreciate that so many of you took the time to fill out our questionnaire. Through your input, we can direct our goals and objectives for the coming year. We had a great year and with the neighborhood's help, we hope that this year will be even better. Sadly, our association said goodbye to some incredible board members: Debra Meltzer, Jan Bishop, and Karen Paratore. And, as always, we are looking for new people who would like to get involved with the GPNA.

Our guest speaker was the esteemed Marin historian, Lionel Ashcroft, who gave a fantastic presentation on the history of filmmaking in Marin. Many thanks, Lionel!

We were also pleased to have Police Corporal Charlie Metcalf attend our meeting. Officer Metcalf, who is our neighborhood patrolman, brought us up to date on his efforts to reduce speeding and other vehicular problems in our neighborhood. Thank you, Officer Metcalf!

A special thank you to Julia Meltzer, babysitter extraordinaire, who made it possible for many parents to attend the meeting.

## GPNA Monthly Meetings

### ➔ Remember: You're Invited!

GPNA meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Upcoming dates are: December 8 (Short School); January 12, Panama Hotel, February 9, Panama Hotel. Come hear what we're up to and lend a hand for your neighborhood!

## New Board Members

At the annual meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> we gained several new GPNA board members.

**Tina and Jerry Yesson** have lived in Gerstle Park since 1971, with a hiatus from 1991 to 1998 when they went to live in Incline Village, Nevada. They are members of the US Coast Guard Auxilliary, have worked in insurance and real estate, and want to be involved in community development issues.

**Rhonda Kutter** is a full time massage therapist and volunteer for the city of San Rafael. She and her husband moved to Frances Street in Gerstle Park from the Dominican neighborhood just over two years ago. Rhonda is heading the Landscaping committee and is committed to adding more trees and helping with neighborhood beautification.

**Melanie Haiken** is a journalist; she's currently an editor at the parenting website BabyCenter.com and prior to that was Managing Editor at *San Francisco Magazine*. She has lived on Marin Street for 8 years and has two young daughters.

## 2000 GPNA Board Members

<b>Rachel Tracy</b> , President	721-0761
<b>Bill Baker</b> , Vice President	460-9942
<b>Robin Raymond</b> , Secretary	456-2517
<b>Tom Obletz</b> , Treasurer	459-0149
<b>Tina Yesson</b> , Membership	455-8671
<b>Melanie Haiken</b> , Newsletter	454-5848
<b>Rhonda Kutter</b> , Landscaping	457-5528
<b>Lori Schifrin</b> , Parking & Traffic	485-1101

## GPNA Board Committees

The first meeting of this year's Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association board was held on November 10 at the Panama Hotel. Several committees were designated in response to your input at the annual meeting. The committees and associated chairs were assigned as follows:

- Landscaping - Rhonda Kutter 457-5528
- Membership - Tina Yesson 455-8671
- Newsletter - Melanie Haiken 454-5848
- Traffic & Parking - Lori Schifrin 485-1101

It was additionally suggested that the traffic committee be a subdivision of a code enforcement committee which would encompass three areas: traffic, parking, and residential. A final decision has not yet been made and any input from those interested would be greatly appreciated and should be directed to our Board President, Rachel Tracy, 721-0761, or Vice President, Bill Baker, 460-9942.

Committee chairs hope to hear from any of you interested in serving on these committees and helping to further define neighborhood goals in these areas. We will also be calling upon those of you who indicated an interest in these committees at the annual meeting.

## Check Out GPNA's New Website!

Thanks to the amazing web expertise of our neighbor, Ken Goudey, we are very excited to unveil a brand new website for the Gerstle Park neighborhood association.

The URL is:

**<http://www.gerstlepark.com>**

and it should be up and running within a few days of your receiving this newsletter.

Our goal is to keep you informed; in fact, if you lose this newsletter, you can find a copy on the website. Also available on the website: information on GPNA activities, updates about San Rafael city planning, growth, public safety, and law enforcement, and briefings on our monthly meetings and the meetings of the various committees. Eventually we hope to link our site with the website for the City of San Rafael.

This website is for our community, so if you have any ideas, comments, or items you would like to see included, please email: [editor@GerstlePark.com](mailto:editor@GerstlePark.com).

And don't forget to visit **<http://www.gerstlepark.com>** regularly.



### 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

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

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

okay to include your address on our mailing list?

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

New Member       Renewal

Amount Enclosed\*: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Annual donation: **\$10.00** per household **\$5.00** seniors

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!**



## Halloween Decorating Contest

This year was even more outrageous than usual when it came to spooky Halloween spirit in Gerstle Park. There were so many ghoulish graveyards, scary spiderwebs and monster mashes that it was very difficult to choose the winners. Everyone who went all-out deserves a prize. That said, there were a few houses that were truly inspired in their creepy creativity.

First prize, dinner for two at the Panama Hotel, goes to 11 Marin Street, for the truly magical witches' lair – even scarier than usual.

Second prize, a \$20 gift certificate to Craig's Warehouse, goes to 334 C Street, for the super-scary haunted house. Third prize, also a \$20 gift certificate to Craig's Warehouse, goes to 240 Bayview, for the great haunted house with the giant spider. Honorable mentions go to 217 Bayview Street for the ghoulish graveyard, 239 Bayview for the annual Jack-o-lantern spectacular, and 347 Bayview, for the superb spiderwebs, snakes and rats. And if your house is not mentioned here, please try again next year; the Halloween craziness is one of the reasons we all love Gerstle Park so much!

## MMWD vs. Gerstle Park Neighbors

Once in a while, David CAN beat Goliath.

For three years, MMWD had planned on replacing 100-year-old pipes on upper Reservoir Road. While this is great news for everyone in Gerstle Park, it was quite shocking to the families on upper Reservoir when we found out the pipes would be rerouted onto newly purchased easements (private property) adjacent to existing homes. MMWD also intended to abandon the existing pipes on their narrow lot and sell the lot off as surplus. This would allow a wealthy buyer to build a new home in Gerstle Park on a substandard-size lot.

After several months of phone calls, meetings, and neighborhood planning, the dust has finally settled. We, the people actually won! MMWD has listened to us and agreed to reroute the pipes beneath the streets, thereby saving all the oak, bay, and madrone trees in our backyards. Thanks go out to the GPNA for their support, and to all of the neighbors who joined forces.

## 1999 Calendar of Events

December 16 Christmas Caroling

December 25 Christmas Decorating Contest

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## got time?

If you have an interest in your neighborhood, and a little extra time, you'll be amazed at what a difference you can make! Drop us a note, a call, or an email and tell us what you'd like to do. We need your help!

### **The Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association**

P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915

phone: Tina Yesson, 455-8671

email: [volunteer@GerstlePark.com](mailto:volunteer@GerstlePark.com)

Don't forget to check out the new GPNA website: <http://www.GerstlePark.com>

A very special thank you to **The Copy Shop and Printing Co.** (805 E Street, 457-5600) for giving us a neighborly discount!