



Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2001

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association

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

We'll Strike the Harp - You Join the Chorus

Neighborhood Caroling on December 13!!

Bring your voices and/or instruments (flutes, guitars, violins...? There will be at least one celtic harp.) This year we will gather at Trinity Church, Woodland at Octavia, on Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. After singing familiar carols, we will have hot drinks and cookies. Please bring a dozen cookies to share.

Because Larry Zee has retired as lead caroler, no outdoor caroling is planned. If anyone is interested in leading carolers through the neighborhood (starting out from Trinity Church after warming up with the rest of us), please call Barbara Schilling at 482-1669.

If you need a ride to the church, or can provide a ride, or have any other questions, please call Barbara Schilling at 482-1669.

Holiday Decorating Contest Dec. 19

This is your chance to hold back the winter night with decorations to enhance the joys of the holiday season, and to share that good spirit with your neighbors. Although we don't want to be too wasteful of electricity, we have heard that the state of California will not be a grinch with power this year! GPNA Board elves will be zooming around the neighborhood starting December 19 to pick the very best of neighborhood offerings, so be ready!

SRPD Presentation - Personal Security

On Saturday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m. Lieutenant Jim Kelly along with the Beat One officers of SRPD will be hosting a presentation for Gerstle Park Neighborhood residents. The presentation will take place at the San Rafael Community Center auditorium. Topics to be addressed include: awareness, prevention, pepper spray, how to assess people, how to calm people down, ways to defend or protect yourself. We'd like to see a big turn out for this special presentation by our Police Department, so mark your calendars now. If you need transportation OR can provide a ride for someone call Tina Yesson at 455.8671 between 10 AM & 10 PM or e-mail at Tvesson@aol.com.

Your Board Needs Your Opinions!

A major part of the job of GPNA Board members is to represent each of you before the City of San Rafael, and we would like to do that as fully and accurately as possible. In this issue of the newsletter, we have included a survey on page 3 on three issues vital to Gerstle Park. We need you to take a few minutes to complete and return this survey so that we can honestly reflect your views to the City on matters that will affect your life in our neighborhood. The survey covers the the following subjects:

- Neighborhood connections to the Golden Gate Ferry
- Solutions to parking problems
- San Rafael noise ordinance revisions

Thank you for helping us to help you!

Hallowe'en Decorating Contest

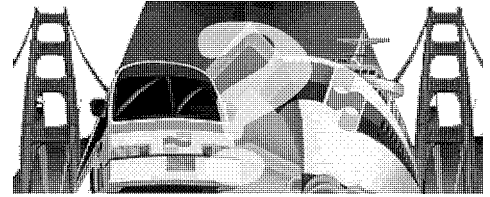
This years' contest had a lot of participants and we thank everyone for joining in. It certainly makes the neighborhood festive! We decided that in lieu of individual prizes we would make a donation of \$100.00 to the Red Cross September 11 Fund in honor of the Gerstle Park Halloween Decorating Contest Participants. Thanks, everyone, for providing the neighborhood with such great decorations. We judged on categories this year rather than 1st, 2nd or 3rd place. The winners are:

Best overall design:	608 C Street
Great design:	341 Clorinda, 345 Clorinda
Best Goblin:	21 Marin
Best Spiders:	11 Marin
Most artistic:	231 Bayview
Creepiest house:	12 Ross
Spooky houses:	20 Marin, 19 Ross, 409 D Street, 217 Bayview

Thanks again for your efforts. Don't forget the Christmas decorating contest, to be judged starting December 19, 2001.

Revisiting the Golden Gate Ferry Shuttle Program

In our Summer 2001 issue, we included a neighborhood survey regarding possible Gerstle Park routes for a Golden Gate Transit bus and ferry shuttle. There was some neighborhood interest in a shuttle serving our area, but the proposed route met with a less than enthusiastic response. Therefore, Golden Gate Transit is offering up the following two possible alternative routes, plus the originally proposed route:



OPTION A

Eastbound: From Fourth Street - turn right onto B Street, left onto Woodland Avenue, to Bellam, then right on Andersen.

Westbound: From Woodland Avenue - right onto B Street, left onto First, right onto C Street, left onto Fourth

OPTION B

Eastbound: From Fourth Street - turn right onto A Street to Andersen

Westbound: Andersen to A Street to Fourth Street

OPTION C (Original Proposal)

Eastbound: From Fourth Street - turn right on D Street, left onto Taylor Street, continuing onto Woodland Ave to Bellam,

then right on Andersen.

Westbound: From Woodland Avenue - right onto B Street, left onto First, right onto C Street, left onto Fourth.

We have developed survey questions on page 3 in the hopes that each of you will take the time to respond, even if you responded to our first survey last summer. This is your opportunity to voice an opinion on a critical issue in San Rafael that will impact the Gerstle Park Neighborhood.

Please respond by December 15th, 2001, to allow us time for tabulation of results before the December 26, 2001

San Rafael to Revise City Noise Ordinance

The City of San Rafael is considering adoption of a revised noise ordinance to include decibel level standards, time periods within which noise can be made, categories of noise and exemptions from noise standards. Generally, the revised ordinance limits excessive noise to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Decibel level standards are set, and certain noise sources are either exempt or follow different hours. For example, refuse collection would be permitted in residential zones between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Certain exemptions from the provisions of the ordinance are designated, such as emergency vehicle sirens, noise sources from work on capital improvements by City employees, other public entities or City contractors. Call the San Rafael City Clerk's office (485-3066) for a copy of the proposed ordinance. In the meantime, please fill out the survey on page 3 to let us know how you would like to see the noise ordinance change!

Parking, Parking and Parking

Well now, here's a real can of worms we've been asked to open. It seems that lack of parking availability is increasing as a neighborhood problem. The subject keeps coming up, so we wondered what YOU thought. Let us know via the survey on page 3 or e-mail to: Jyesson@aol.com

Any other thoughts you'd care to share will be greatly appreciated. Let us hear from you—you live here too!

A Report from Charlie Metcalf, SRPD Beat One Officer

Officer Metcalf wanted to let GPNA residents know about a series of daytime residential burglaries that have taken place in Terra Linda targeting notebook computers left in homes in the proximity of rear windows. Recently a similar burglary occurred also in the Sun Valley area. The suspect enters through an unlocked door at the rear of the house.

Officer Metcalf reminds us once again to keep all doors and windows locked. You can contact the San Rafael Police Department if you are not sure how secure your home is. There is someone available at the police department to do a home security check and recommend steps to make your home safer. Also, promptly report any suspicious behavior in your area to the Police Department. A call from a concerned neighbor could be just the break the police need to apprehend this burglar.

Gerstle Park's Tot Lot to be Updated

The City has determined that the Gerstle Park playground area for toddlers needs to be upgraded. Carlene McCart at the Park and Recreation Department indicates that it will be March or April of next year before anything can be done to the tot park, since the department is very busy now. Next spring we will walk the site with the engineers and do a preliminary plan. Once the plan is approved, they will hire an architect to design the area, looking at what kind of structures and play equipment we would like to see in the park. The process of planning will take several months, but we hope that construction will begin by early summer.

If you would like to be part of the plan, please contact: Chandra Murphy at murphdtm@yahoo.com or call 415-482-8033.

GPNA NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

Please take a minute to answer the following questions and return to GPNA, P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael, CA 94915-0644, as soon as possible.

Name (optional) _____

Address (needed) _____

GG TRANSIT SURVEY #2

• Do you want a G-G Transit shuttle service to the Ferry? no yes

• Which of the routes mentioned in the Golden Gate Ferry article above do you prefer? Option A Option B Option C

PARKING SURVEY

• Do you want restricted parking for street cleaning days? yes no

• Do you want street parking restricted to residents and their guests only? yes no

• Do you want no street parking overnight? yes no

Comments: _____

NOISE ORDINANCE SURVEY

• What time should construction noise be allowed to start in the morning? _____

• What time should it end? _____

• What time should garbage collection be allowed to start in the morning? _____

• Do you think City of San Rafael construction work should be exempt from the noise ordinance? yes no

• If answer to above is "yes", what time do you think the City should be allowed to start and end their jobs? Start time _____ End time _____

Additional Comments: _____

A Message from Your GPNA President

New Board Elected at Annual Meeting

The GPNA Annual Meeting, marking the end of fiscal year 2001, was held on October 29 at the San Rafael Community Center. We ended the year with 183 paid 2001 memberships; and while the turnout of a mere 34 ballots was somewhat disappointing, those participants were top notch! We got great feedback and new volunteers for a "disaster readiness committee" and a "shuttle committee".

Welcome to our new committee members, Tamra Peters, Marlene Bonham, and Kathleen Leech. Also present and always welcome was County Supervisor Hal Brown—thank you, Hal, for always being there for us!

The Association is meant for all residents and property owners, be they homeowners, landlords or tenants. Through electing a Board of Directors, every member opens a communication channel which allows the GPNA Board to speak on their behalf. We want to represent the consensus of those who share this neighborhood with us. We know there will always be a divergence of opinion on issues, and it is because of that divergence that the Board needs to hear from more of you. Feel free to e-mail any of us, write to the Board, come to our meetings, participate in our surveys, or volunteer to help.

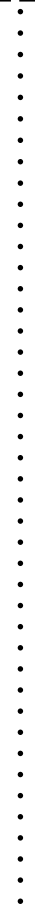
As past president, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of last year's Board for a job well done. We did a lot of work and had a lot of fun doing it. Retiring Board members Bill Baker and Lois Tucker may be gone but are not forgotten, and we look forward to their continuing contribution to GPNA. With that in mind I'd like to introduce to you the new Board and Officers for fiscal year 2002:

TINA YESSON, President

Tyesson@aol.com

Tina is a native of San Francisco, has lived in Gerstle Park with her husband since 1971, with a hiatus from 1991 to 1998 when they lived in Incline Village, Nevada. With a BA in Business and an 18 year career in corporate management, Tina recently passed the State of California Real Estate Broker's examination. Additionally, she is currently Public Education Officer of the Golden Gate Station Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12.

GPNA Neighborhood Survey
P.O. Box 150644
San Rafael, CA 94915-0644



BETSY RYAN-DALPINO, Vice President dsdbrd@worldnet.att.net

Betsy has lived in Gerstle Park for five years. She is currently working for a private investigator and exploring new careers. Betsy is heading the GPNA Landscape Committee and hopes to implement planting of neighborhood planting strips between curbs and lot lines in the next year.

CYNTHIA LANDECKER, Secretary clandecker@saber.net

Cynthia and her husband Hugo have lived in Gerstle Park since 1968 and were present at the very first meeting of the GPNA. Cynthia served last year as GPNA Vice President. She is interested in preserving the historical character of the Gerstle Park neighborhood. The Landeckers are always restoring their 1883 Italianate Victorian and are avid sailors.

BRETT MERNER, Treasurer bwmerner@aol.com

Last year's treasurer also, Brett and his wife Peggy have lived in Gerstle Park for four years, in Marin for over twenty. Brett works for a local building materials company. Besides renovating their 1923 home, he enjoys skiing in Colorado.

KRYSTYNA BARRON krys@matteworld.com

Krystyna has been a resident homeowner in Gerstle Park since 1990, and previously served on the GPNA Board for several years as Treasurer and V.P. She owns and operates a small business with her husband and is concerned with preserving the historic and charming quality of the neighborhood, as she believes Gerstle Park is already quite dense. She loves to dance, grow roses and be the Halloween spider witch of Marin Steet.

KEN GOUDEY swaziloo@gerstlepark.com

Ken is a software engineer and internet/server programmer. Ken and his wife Eve focus on their 2 young boys, and endless home improvement. Ken is also an avid scuba diver. This is their third year in the neighborhood, and Ken's third year on the board. Ken is determined to keep our newsletter layout and website absolutely top class.

HUGO LANDECKER clandecker@saber.net

Hugo served on the original GPNA Board and continued to serve for 17 years, holding positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. He is retired. He hopes to guide extensive revisions and updates of the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Plan in the next year.

BARBARA SCHILLING marinharper@yahoo.com

Barbara has lived in Marin for 19 years. She moved to Gerstle Park from Corte Madera in November 1999. She plays the celtic harp when she isn't working as a computer consultant in San Francisco.

STEVEN SCHOONOVER ajaxlaw@pacbell.net

Newly elected GPNA Board member Steven Schoonover is a 10-year Gerstle Park resident, the GPNA liaison with Center Point, and a former GPNA Board member. He lives on Antonette Avenue with his son and daughter-in-law, a dog and a cat. Schoonover has a civil law practice in San Rafael, gardens extensively, and is especially interested in tracking San Rafael city policies and the impacts they have on the Gerstle Park neighborhood.

JENNIFER STROMAN jenniferstroman@hotmail.com

Jennifer and her husband James moved to Gerstle Park two years ago and look forward to raising their family here. Jennifer is a marketing executive for disease management programs for pharmaceutical companies. She loves to travel and hike and enjoys foreign films. She will be working with GPNA and San Rafael City Schools as the liaison between Short School and the neighborhood.

JERRY YESSON jyesson@aol.com

A returning Board member, Jerry is a native San Franciscan who has lived in Gerstle Park with his wife, Tina since 1971. He works in residential and commercial real estate development and for the past nine years has served as President of the Board of Cedars West Homeowners Association. Additionally, Jerry is serving his second year as Flotilla Commander of the Golden Gate Station Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12.

2020 General Plan Update

At a recent meeting of the San Rafael Federation of Neighborhoods, we learned that the "policy recommendations" for the City of San Rafael 2020 General Plan can be viewed at the website, www.cityofsanrafael.org/general-plan. The site provides public comment on the recommendations which will ultimately comprise the General Plan for our City over the next twenty years. So we urge you to take the opportunity to learn what's in store for you and "speak your mind". Those of you who do not have a computer can access one at the City Library or the City Hall at the Mall and visit the site from there. Alternatively, you can obtain a copy of the recommendations and arrange to make your comments by calling Evelyn Buchwitz, of the City's Planning Department, at 458.5008.



GPNA Monthly Meetings

Remember, You're Invited!

GPNA meetings are now held at 7:30 p.m at Trinity Lutheran Church, 333 Woodland Avenue, San Rafael.

Upcoming dates are:

Wednesday, December 12th

Wednesday, January 9th

Thursday, February 6th

Thursday, March 7th

Membership Report

As of November 17, we have sixty-three paid memberships for the fiscal year 2002. With over 1200 residences and several critical issues to address this year, we are looking forward to receiving your check and membership application if you're not already on the following list. Join us and become part of the voice of your neighborhood. If you think you've paid for 2002, but aren't on the list, give us a call at 455.8671 (10 a.m. - 10 p.m.) with your date of payment, and we'll fix it. Thanks for your continued support!

Geraldine Allan	Greg Dudley	Patricia & Clifford Lardinois	Elizabeth Ryan-Dalpino
Robert Antonelli	Pat Ford & Kay Bolla	Kathleen & Jim Leech	Barbara Schilling
Kay Baradat	Carol & Gary Galloway	Steve Lenschmidt	John & Carol Schnell
Krystyna & Craig Barron	Ideale & Sonya Gambera	Sandy Lollini	Steven Schoonover
Alyce Bottini	Richard & Julia Geist	Tom Lollini	Bob & Peg Snyder
Lynn Bradescu	Mario & Judith Gianetti	Patricia D. Lorentzen	Loretta Soldavini
Diana & Mike Britting	Segrid Gladstone	Dolores Lydon	Al Souza
Bob Casinelli	Bryan Gould & Laurie Oman	Ann & Roger Machin	Carrie Souza
Cater/Scheer Family	Jerome & Ingrid Groeshl	Tom Martinez & Erika McAuliffe	Cassie & Marshall Stevenson
Center Point	Linda & Bruce Hopper	Brett & Peggy Merner	Janis Stitt & Roger Coale
Collins Family	The John Family	Chandra & Duane Murphy	Shari & Tom Tracy
Shannon Collins	Dottie Kubota-Cordery	David Ortez & Joli Wilson	Charles Von Drehle & Laurie Telder
Dave & Char Devencenzi	Sarah Kushner	Steve Patterson	Robin White
Fran DeVinny	Dave Lammel & David Simon	Tamra Peters & Bill Carney	Jerry & Tina Yesson
Linda Donaghue	Cynthia Landecker	Susan & Charlie Pick	Larry & Nancy Zee
Angelo Douvos	Hugo Landecker	Guy & Nancy Russell	

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: **\$10.00** per household (**\$5.00** seniors) - 1 voting member

Payment Type: _____ Term of membership is from November 1st to November 1st

How did you hear about GPNA? Friend Newsletter Other: _____

Welcome to GPNA!

A Day in the Sun

Our annual GPNA picnic was held September 16, just five days after the terrible events of September 11. Although our attendance was down and our hearts were heavy, we did have a good group of people on a sunny, breezy day. It was wonderful to see folks gathered together in the sunshine, to see kids getting flowers painted on their cheeks and laughing their way through sack races on the green grass, to see kids with Fire Department hats and balloons interacting with generous San Rafael Fire Department personnel who gave their day to be with us. It was wonderful to munch on hotdogs and schmooze with our neighbors while listening to the sweet old sounds of the band Swing Fever. Our membership table was bright with balloons, and the American flag was there. It all seemed to make us all feel a little better and to realize how lucky we are to live in this community of Gerstle Park—in this city, in this state, in this nation.

Contributing to the success of the day were local businesses who contributed raffle prizes. We have thanked these outstanding businesses and told them it is a matter of pride to have them as neighbors, and we urge you to make a point of patronizing them:

- MUFFIN MANIA**, 2 Bayview Street, One dozen muffins were won by Katherine North.
- LA FAYETTE FRENCH PASTRY**, 820 D Street, Ten dollar gift certificates won by Alex Baker and the Landecker family.
- PANAMA HOTEL**, 4 Bayview Street, A great T-shirt and one night's stay was won by Mark Wilson.
- GERSTLE PARK INN**, 34 Grove Street, One night's stay was won by Barbara Schilling.

Two board members also contributed the following:
A print of an antique map, won by Betsy Dalpino
A day's sail on San Francisco Bay, won by Mary Gilmer

In addition to several board members, we would like to thank the following neighbors for working hard to insure the success of the picnic: Sandy Baker, Richard Lambert, Jan Bishop, and Alice Woodland. We really could not have done it without you! We must also mention the hard work of two nine-year-old girls performing "community service" as

Fall Line-Up for Our Beat One Police Officers

they cleaned up the picnic area. Thanks, girls.
Officer Charlie Metcalf reports the following:
We have had our semi-annual shift rotation here at SRPD. For the first time we've been able to keep three of the four of us from the Spring 2001 rotation for another six months. Here's our new line-up:

Days: Dan Hanlon	Nights: Dennis Prince
Tim McGinley	Charlie Mecalf

Best wishes, Charlie Metcalf

Such an Angel He's Been

After 15 years as lead Christmas Caroler of Gerstle Park, Larry Zee has decided to retire. We are grateful for his years of service to the neighborhood, keeping us on track and in tune with his guitar and his great voice, while making it fun for everyone. He certainly will be missed, although we do hope to see him at future GPNA events, even if he doesn't bring his guitar and sing!

Restoration of Mahon Creek

The City of San Rafael has recently completed a partial restoration of lower Mahon Creek from Heatherton to Lindaro. Long-range plans call for further restoration of the creek from Lindaro to "B" Street. The restoration involves removal of non-native species, planting of native riparian vegetation, removal of debris and (hopefully) improvement of habitat so that native fish will once again visit the creek. Similar projects are under way all over Marin. Anybody working on or interested in working on Mahon Creek restoration, please telephone Steven Schoonover at 415.456.1954.

Did You Know??

Ever since our "dog leash" column, which sparked a bit of negative feedback, we've been procrastinating on this topic. But we've had many requests to address the issue, so I guess we won't put it off any longer, let's just put it out there and get it over with. It's got to do with cats and dogs—no, not the way it rains, the way they are. Whether you're a cat lover, a dog lover, or just a lover, you may not always like the behavior of your neighbor's pet.

Most cats who travel about the neighborhood do so on their own, without the guidance of their masters - although there is some question about who the master is when it comes to cats. So as we travel the neighborhood, we're generally far less likely to put our foot upon or have to suffer the odiferous emanations of a pile of cat poop. But if you know your cat's doing it next door, invest in a litter box to help restore your cat's dignity and our neighborhood pride.

Because we have a leash law, dogs unlike cats are required to be escorted by their masters when doing their daily duty. Most responsible dog owners always travel with a baggie permitting the master to "pick up after their dog". We heartily thank those respectful Gerstle Park neighbors who make it a practice to do this. But as with many things in life, there are always the few who give the majority a bad name and often cause the polarization of neighbors on these issues. Those few may carry the baggie to give the appearance of being a responsible dog owner but they never really stop to "pick up" after their pet. And equally unneighborly are the few who don't even bother to pretend they'll pick up—maybe they just don't know that it's the right thing to do.

So we thought after having had so many requests, we'd assume they "just don't know" and feature the topic in "Did you Know" in the hopes they will choose to do the right thing. No offense intended to any cat OR dog lovers—simply a response to neighbors who've identified the subject matter as a "health hazard" and are apparently tired of stepping in, smelling or cleaning up doggie doo.

2001-2002 Calendar of Events

December 13	Holiday Carloing
December 19	Holiday Decorating Judging
February 2	Neighborhood Watch
March 30	Spring Fling
May 4	Neighborhood Clean-up
June 22	Garage Sale
September 16	Annual Picnic
October 23	Annual Meeting
October 31	Halloween Contest Judging

Your Neighbors Are My References!!

323 Bayview St	shingle style Arts/Crafts
322 Bayview St	English Tudor bungalow
231 Bayview St	shingle style Art/Crafts
153/155 Clark St	70's style duplex
523 C St	Victorian duplex
112 San Rafael Ave.	shingle style Arts/Crafts
200 Marin St.	shingle style Arts/Crafts
51 Clorinda	Victorian remodel
134 Clorinda	shingle style Arts/Crafts
362 Clorinda	contemporary style
365 Clorinda	contemporary style
2 Antonette	Spanish Style

WINTER PROMO - up to 30% off - Dec thru March

Fine Line Painting - "The Gerstle Park Specialist"

~Since 1987—Estimates-485-1493—prepped right to last~

Buying, Selling, Refinancing?

We will donate \$500 on each sale closed, and \$250 on each loan closed in the neighborhood to the GPNA!

For a FREE MARKET ANALYSIS of your property, or to get a 24 HOUR APPROVAL for a refinance or Purchase loan, please call:

Vince Sheehan, Gerstle Park Homeowner and Broker of

Vince Sheehan Realty
302-2500 or 457-8988 (H)

&

Ross Valley Mortgage
485-4448

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