



FALL 2018

GERSTLE PARK Neighborhood Association



GPNA Calendar

- 10/31 Halloween House Decorating Contest
- 12/2 Hugo Landecker French Broom Pull
- 12/3 Winter Social @ Panama Hotel
- 12/13 Christmas Caroling
- 1/28 GPNA Annual Meeting @ Elks Lodge

Halloween Decorating Contest

Wednesday, October 31st



Let your imagination fly away this year and you just may be one of our Halloween Decoration Contest winners!! Prizes will be awarded to Gerstle Park neighbors who get their creative "All Hallows' Eve" juices flowing

with the best carved pumpkins, spider webs, mummies & more. No need to enter, any home with Halloween themed decorations will be judged. We look forward to your hair-raising creations for a ghostly, haunting, fun Halloween. 2018 UPDATE: Trick-or-treaters will surely miss the haunted house on Marin Street this year, as JD Diego & family moved out of the neighborhood last spring. The good news is that 1st prize is up for grabs. Game on!!



POBox 150644 San Rafael, Ca 94915-0644 1/4

Hugo Landecker Broom Pull

Sunday, December 2 at 10am



Please join the Landecker family and GPNA in the Gerstle Park Redwood Grove on 12/2/18 for the 2nd annual Sunday morning of pulling French Broom from the open space. French Broom is an aggressive non-native species

which is a fire hazard and which also makes Gerstle Park's trails impassable. Continental breakfast will be served. All ages welcome. Bring gloves, water to drink and wear long sleeved clothing. In the event of rain, we will move the event to 12/9.

RSVP to info@gerstlepark.com.

PorchFest

A BIG Thank You!



The inaugural San Rafael PorchFest was truly magical. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made the day so special — Musicians, Porch Hosts, Porchers, Photographers, Attendees, Sponsors, City of San Rafael and the Gerstle Park

Neighborhood Association. In the words of Mayor Gary Phillips, "It was well organized, featured a lot of variety, fun for everyone in the community - and how about our San Rafael weather?! It simply doesn't get any better." See sanrafaelporchfest.com for more pics.



Photo ©2018 Bruce Forrester warmlightphoto.com

www.gerstlepark.com

West End Neighborhood "Family Fun Day"

Sunday, Nov 4, 11am-7pm
4th St. between H St. and Shaver

Returning in 2018 after a one-year hiatus, this year will feature kid's arts and crafts in partnership with Youth In Arts, Draw Bridge, Children for Change, Children's Cottage and Play Well Technologies as well as a skate park presented by Proof Lab, local artists from Art Works Downtown, great food, craft beer and wine, plus a musical line up including popular bands The Mad Hannans, Jenny Kerr featuring Eric McFadden, and super dance band Pop Rocks. www.sanrafaelcelebrates.com



President's Column by Gina Silvestri



Last night (10/13), I attended a fundraiser in San Francisco for my "real job" and had the chance to meet our Congressman Jared Huffman. I told him that I too lived in San Rafael. He asked me which neighborhood, and I told him Gerstle Park. He said, "Oh! I heard about that GREAT event in your neighborhood, PorchFest." His compliment is just one of many I have heard from those who attended the recent San Rafael PorchFest, and those who only wished they had. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the many committee members and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the 1st San Rafael PorchFest such a success, especially "Chief Porcher" Tom Oblatz, "Leaders of the Band(s)" Jenny Kerr & Phil Milner, Odessa Shekar, Brian Auger from the City of San Rafael, and the rest of the GPNA Board (Joss, Ross, Denise, Sandra, Tom & Alicia). We know there is room for improvement if it is decided that Gerstle Park is to hold this event again, but I think everyone deserves a huge pat on the back. All feedback welcome, info@gerstlepark.com.

It was a fun summer in the neighborhood. Highlights for me were attending Gerstle Park Night at the Pacifics in Albert Park, and Nat Night Out and then the City's free outdoor movie in Gerstle Park. I look forward to seeing the neighborhood glowing on Halloween.

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Please mark your calendars and join us at the Winter Social at the Panama Hotel on 12/3 (adults only), Christmas Caroling on 12/13 (all ages), and the Hugo Landecker Memorial French Broom Pull on 12/2 (all ages).

Lastly, congratulations to GPNA Board Member Alicia di Vittorio and her husband Michael on the recent birth of their 2nd child. Welcome to the newest neighbor, baby Knox!



Mitch & Steve making apple cider on Marin St.
Happy Fall!

It is Wildfire Season!

The following class and websites are packed with information to help you prepare for fires, including making your property fire resistant, what to do if you are ordered to evacuate your home, and what to do if you are caught in a fire.

FIRE IN MARIN WORKSHOPS, Register by
Email: fireinmarin@comcast.net.

Point Reyes, Saturday October 27, 10 am-12 pm.
Location details provided on registration due to class size. Drop ins cannot be accommodated.

<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/>

<http://www.firesafemarin.org/>

Treasurer's Corner

by Ross Parmenter

- Beginning Balance (05.07.2018) - \$16,646.37
- Expenses - \$1,287.79
- Income - \$2,120.89
- Ending Balance (10.15.2018) - \$17,479.47*
- MarinLink Balance - \$9,810.00

(not included in Bank balance)

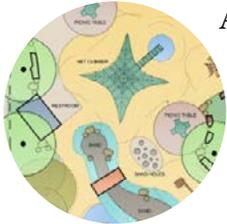
*Includes donation of \$10,000 from
Hugo Landecker Trust presented at Annual Mtg.

www.gerstlepark.com



Albert Park Renovation Moving Forward

From *Marin IJ* – Sept. 19, 2018
Written by *Adrian Rodriguez*



Albert Park is getting a \$720,160 makeover thanks to a three-year community planning and fundraising effort. To a round of cheers and applause, the City Council on voted unanimously on 9/17 to move the project forward.

About a dozen residents, including several children, attended the meeting to show support, holding green signs with a message that read “Yes! Let’s Play-ground!” The 5-0 vote authorized the city manager to award a construction contract in the amount of \$589,020 to M3 Integrated Services Inc., a Santa Rosa-based firm, to build the new playground.

For years, criminal activities have rendered the Albert Park playground area unsafe, unsanitary — and virtually empty of families. That’s why the B Team got involved. The seven-member neighborhood committee has organized park cleanups and other volunteer events with its “B Street Beautification Project” aimed at removing drug, alcohol and crime activity from the park and surrounding area.

The playground is at the center of B Street tucked between the San Rafael Community Center to the north and the Marin Bocce Federation to the south. The existing play area is an approximately 1,800-square-foot sand pit with play equipment. The project site is approximately 12,000 square feet that would include about 8,000 square feet of play area geared toward learning development for preschool and school-aged children.

A swath of dry-creek-like landscaping will separate the little kids’ section from the older children’s play areas. The latter will include balance logs, climbing apparatus and picnic tables. A rubberized surface that is accessible for wheelchairs and walkers will be installed across the play area.

There will also be about 4,000 square feet of improved space, such as landscaping, walkways, seating, accessibility ramps and a new restroom. The whole

area will be fenced in with two designated entrances to improve safety.

In 2015, the city held several public meetings over nine months, inviting residents to help identify priorities for neighborhood parks. After receiving more than 60 responses suggesting improvements for Albert Park, it was determined that the small play area needed an update in order to provide children with a safe place to play.

The B Team was able to raise \$40,000 in donations. The City Council also approved \$204,140 to be allocated from San Rafael’s portion of the voter-approved Measure A funds, which is a quarter-cent sales tax increase to support parks and open space countywide. Another \$306,135 is coming from the city’s parkland dedication funds, and \$64,025 from the city’s building fund.

Lisa Hanson, one of the B Team members, said “We’re extremely grateful to both the city and our neighborhood for continuing to push this forward. We’re so happy we can bring the change the neighborhood deserves.”

Mayor Gary Phillips said that he appreciates the work that the B Team has done. “I keep calling them the ‘A’ team because I think that’s more representative of their effort,” he said. “I can say that we as a community are very, very proud of everyone’s involvement. That’s what community is all about and this is a good example of that.” Public Works Director Bill Guerin said he expects the contractor to order permits needed for work in mid-October. The project is expected to be completed in early 2019.”

Calling All Radio Buffs *READYgerstlepark needs you!*



The GPNA acquired emergency preparedness equipment with a county grant several years ago, including 9 walkie-talkie sets. First Saturdays monthly each of us chime in for a radio check. We make allowances for occasional absences.

Several volunteers have had to give up their sets, and we ask others to pick up this very minor responsibility. Please contact Amy Likover at info@gerstlepark.com if you can join the radio crew.



Where is the Bottled Water?

By Denise Van Horn



You may have noticed that GPNA has not provided bottled water for the last few community events. At PorchFest, many residents noted we were offering free filtered water in paper cups, and expressed appreciation for us not using bottled water. Our eventual goal is for residents to bring their own non-disposable water bottles to events, and we will offer refills.

There is an immense problem with “single use plastics”, including single use water and other drink bottles, straws, lids, coffee stirrers, plastic bags, and most food packaging. They are not being recycled to any significant degree, and are showing up in large numbers on beaches, bodies of water and landfills. They are not biodegradable and just break down into smaller and smaller pieces that are eaten by fish and other marine life. The tiny pieces release toxic chemicals that were used to shape and harden the plastic items. So, of course, plastic and its toxic byproducts are showing up in our food and water.

Getting rid of bottled water at GPNA events is a teeny, tiny, baby step toward decreasing the amount of plastic used once, then discarded. All of us can do more. For more information, check out the following links. Prepare to be shocked!

<https://www.earthday.org/2018/>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/planetorplastic/>

Thank you, DPW!



On behalf of the neighborhood, GPNA would like to thank San Rafael Department of Public Works (DPW) for going the “extra step” (literally) to clear fallen leaves from our gutters and storm drains this year. You may have noticed that they have begun sending a worker thru the neighborhood on foot, carrying a leaf blower back pack in advance of the street sweeper truck. He blows the leaves into the center of the street so that the truck can pick them up easily, allowing cars to stay parked. Great idea, DPW!

POBox 150644 San Rafael, Ca 94915-0644

Sidewalk Update

By Talia Smith, Dept. of Pub. Works



I've been trying to post updates on the program on a bi-monthly basis at www.cityofsanrafael.org/sidewalks. As of right now, we have 100 property owners citywide that have sent in their signed proposals from Van Midde. At this point, it's just a matter of 1. How quickly Van Midde can get out those last ~60 proposals (to date I think they've sent out about 140) and 2. How quickly property owners sign the agreements and send them to the City.

The construction work will not be scheduled until all the signed agreements are returned from property owners. We definitely acknowledge that this process has taken longer than we had hoped for (we had originally said construction in October, but we still haven't even gotten all the signed agreements back and we're in October...). We acknowledge the delay but do want to reinforce that the construction is still all planned to take place as quickly as possible once those agreements are in.

We had originally planned to do Gerstle Park neighborhood first. However, since Gerstle Park will also be the neighborhood with the most sidewalk construction, DPW decided it might be a good idea to actually not do GP first. That way, if there are things that need to be refined in the construction process to make it smoother/less impactful, we will be able to fine tune those in a less-impacted neighborhood like Sun Valley before we get to GP—where we're going to have the heaviest sidewalk construction. However, once we get all agreements in we can revisit the plan to do GP second to see if it still makes sense.

All the properties that had sidewalk shaving identified in their pre-construction inspection (either shaving only or shave and replace) have been completed.





Gerstle Park

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Form

Membership year runs from January 1st - December 31st
One Vote Per Individual - \$20/year (\$10 seniors age 65+)

Please complete the information below and return with your check to:
GPNA, P.O. Box 150644, San Rafael CA, 94915-0644

Renew your membership online at www.gerstlepark.com!

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____ Date: _____
all GPNA correspondence is via email

Payment Type: CHECK CASH TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Interested in volunteering for the following events or committees?
If so, please indicate with one or more checks.
Descriptions can be found on our website, www.gerstlepark.com.

COMMITTEES

- Ready Gerstle Park, Emergency Preparedness
- Community Tree Committee
- Open Space Committee – weeding of invasive species (French Broom) in neighborhood open space, Nov-May
- Food Committee - help with planning, preparation & service for GPNA events

EVENTS includes planning, decorating, helping day-of:

- Fall Picnic
- Christmas Caroling
- Garage Sale
- Halloween Decorating Contest (judging)
- Spring Fling Egg Hunt

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCACY IN SAN RAFAEL

- City Planning
- Homelessness issue
- Large Group Home Regulation(s) Committee
- Parks
 - Gerstle Park Albert Park
- Zoning enforcement

NEWSLETTER Quarterly

- Distribution
- Editing
- Graphic Design

PHOTOGRAPHY

WEBSITE

Welcome to the GPNA!