



SUMMER 2018

# GERSTLE PARK

## Neighborhood Association



### GPNA Calendar

June 16 - Garage Sale Day  
June 30 - GP Night Pacifics Baseball  
August 7 - National Night Out  
September 23 - San Rafael PorchFest  
NOTE: The Annual Picnic will be replaced by PorchFest this year.

### Garage Sale Day

Saturday, June 16th from 9-2  
Your Home OR Gerstle Park!



Doing some spring cleaning and thinking about having a garage sale? Register to be a part of the Annual Gerstle Park Garage Sale on June 16th. Hundreds of people flock to the neighborhood in search of a new treasure. Register

your house to be "put on the map" or for a spot in Gerstle Park! More details on Registration Form. Registration deadline Tuesday, June 12th for inclusion on the map. Register with the attached Registration Form or at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com).



### Batter Up!

*Pacifics Baseball Gerstle Park Night*  
Saturday, June 30 at 5pm



Join GPNA on Saturday night, June 30th. Game starts at 5:05 PM. The Pacifics will also be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the release of the Beatles "White Album". Beatles tribute band "Nigel & Clive and

the British Invasion" will play. Purchase game tickets starting 4/1 at [www.pacificsbaseball.com](http://www.pacificsbaseball.com). Enter promo code "gerstle" for \$5 off General Admission. First 250 fans get free commemorative white t-shirt. All fans encouraged to WEAR WHITE!

### PorchFest

*Food, Music & Fun!*  
*Coming to our neighborhood*  
*Sunday, Sept 23rd 12-5*



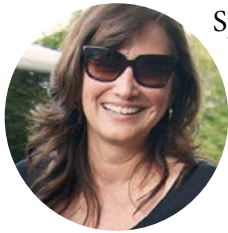
The inaugural San Rafael PorchFest is replacing the Annual GPNA Picnic this year! We're creating a free family-friendly and pedestrian-friendly neighborhood day of music and fun near Gerstle Park -- San Rafael Avenue and Clark

Street. Email Tom Oblatz to see if you're home is within the boundary. Save the date for this unique event featuring local musicians performing on your neighbors' porches and front yards! PorchFest is a nationwide group of volunteers dedicated to local, free music. SRPF is looking for volunteers, musicians and porches for the event. GPNA and the City of San Rafael are sponsors and we're looking for additional businesses to participate. P.S. There will be food trucks!

Please contact: Tom Oblatz 415.691.4567  
Email: [sanrafaelporchfest@gmail.com](mailto:sanrafaelporchfest@gmail.com)

# President's Column

by Gina Silvestri



Spring is in full bloom & summer, my favorite season, is almost here! On my daily walks with Blue, I've been noticing all the "diversity" of the neighborhood gardens as they come into season – roses, lemons, newly planted vegetable gardens, lilacs & succulents. I even spotted some dogwood! I also love all the creative front porches. [Note to self: Slow down and spend some time on your front porch!]

This summer in the neighborhood promises a little something for everyone – Garage Sale Day (6/16), Gerstle Park Night at the Pacifics Baseball (6/30), National Night Out (8/7) and PorchFest (9/23). Lastly, and let's not forget those Thursday night potlucks in Gerstle Park!

GPNA is excited to help GPNA Member Tom Oblatz bring San Rafael's first ever PorchFest to our neighborhood on Sunday afternoon, September 23rd. With the giant musical talent pool in our neighborhood, we feel that this is a natural fit for Gerstle Park. In order to focus our energy and resources on this event, the GPNA Board made the decision to replace this year's Annual Picnic, which also usually happens in September. Please mark your calendar and join us for PorchFest! We promise the picnic will be back next year.



Whatever your summer brings, ENJOY IT!

# City's New Tree Policy

Coming Soon (We hope!)

by Gina Silvestri

When the San Rafael City Council passed their Sidewalk Ordinance last fall, they promised the community that they would work on developing a much-needed City Tree Policy. GPNA feels this is a critical component as we discuss sidewalks improvements. Members of the GPNA Tree Committee are continuing to have discussions with the Department of Public Works staff and are optimistic that the City will have news to share with you very soon.

# Newly Painted Gerstle Park Signs on D Street

by Josselyn Roberston



You may have noticed that the Gerstle Park signs on D Street have been repainted. Board member Josselyn Robertson met with a design consultant at Marin Color who suggested various color combinations that would look authentic in our historic neighborhood.

As a group the Board chose the new colors, something that would blend with the environment but highlight the "Gerstle Park" letters. Josselyn then worked with professional local painters who generously volunteered their time to prep and paint.

Thank you to Selvin Lopez and Ever Blanco!



"Before" picture of Gerstle Park sign on D St.



Selvin Lopez and Ever Blanco, Painters

# Treasurer's Corner

by Ross Parmenter

Balance (as of 03/5/2018): \$16,800.87

Expenses: \$401.01

Income: \$247.00

Balance (as of 05/7/2018): \$16,646.86 \*

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

MarinLink account (different bank acct., filming donations): \$9,810.00





# Meet Your Neighbor

## Kim Baenisch, Trips for Kids Marin

by Dotty LeMieux



I met Kim Baenisch, Executive Director of Trips for Kids Marin (TFKM), in her office in the repurposed modest building on 4th Street, San Rafael, which houses this non-profit that brings the experience of mountain biking and environmental awareness to kids that otherwise might never be exposed to the natural world.

Founded in 1988 in San Rafael, TFKM brings inner city kids that are considered “at risk” to natural open spaces, and since it’s inception, it’s opened 50 active chapters across the U.S. and Canada. The program fosters self-esteem, team building, the art of cooperating with others, and teaches bike repair and maintenance skills. Kids can even “earn a bike” by participating in mechanical after-school workshops. Some kids later become volunteers in the program; others find jobs that grow out of the skills they gain in the workshops.

The program take kids on trail rides in Golden Gate Park, Point Pinole Regional Park and other local parks, teaching the youth to appreciate the environment, mindfulness and to work as a team on group rides.

Under Kim’s leadership, the program’s scope and reach has grown. She’s added new fundraising campaigns, refined its bike shop and eBay store processes, and spearheaded new partnerships with the County of Marin Parks & Open Spaces and local service agencies. She’s put a new energy behind teaching participants basic bicycle skills, safety, and trail etiquette.

In addition to serving Bay Area youth, TFKM provides a valuable service to our local community, by offering “gently used” bike clothing, gear, and bicycles at its Re-Cyclery Bike Shop. Professional bike mechanics (and volunteers) refurbish donated bikes for adults and kids at 610 4th Street. TFKM’s “Earn a Bike” program operates in San Rafael’s Canal community, and its Mobile Bike Workshops occur at six Marin schools where youth learn safe bike riding skills over 10-week after-school sessions.

The Re-Cyclery Bike Shop provides 50% of the revenue needed to fund its youth programs. The rest comes in the form of grants and individual donations (e.g. Marin Community Foundation), and special events like TFKM’s 30th Anniversary Gala to be held in Mill Valley on Oct. 19, 2018.

Before TFKM, Kim served as the Executive Director for the Marin County Bicycle Coalition, leading the implementation of the Master Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan for every town/city in Marin County, opening the Cal Park Tunnel, and increasing the availability of bike lanes countywide. She is an enthusiastic road and mountain biker, and more recently has become a competitive crew rower with Marin Rowing Association in Larkspur. Her husband, Steven Plunkett, a hazardous materials engineer for Alameda County, commutes to the East Bay in multi-modal fashion using his car, e-bike and BART. They moved to Greenwood Avenue seven years ago, and love the quiet neighborhood, the mature trees, the friendly people, the easy commute and ability to walk downtown to shops and entertainment.

Kim emphasized that the Re-Cyclery Bike Shop “is a great resources for the whole community, especially families, who can buy low cost bikes and other gear, donate their outgrown bikes, and can volunteer – all of these efforts help us get more kids on bikes!” She invites everyone to visit their location to check out the goods on offer and see what great work the staff and kids are doing. For more info, visit <https://www.tripsforkidsmarin.org>.



# Watch us on TV!

Season 2 of the NETFLIX series

“Thirteen Reasons Why”

Release Date: May 18

Many of the scenes in this popular and controversial series were filmed in Gerstle Park.

## GET READY Training

by Amy Likover



The GPNA sponsors monthly radio checks when emergency preparedness volunteers tune in first Saturdays at 8:30 AM. Thanks go to Carol Abrahams, Dave Mariottini, Dan Miller, Ben Latimer, Jennifer Daley, Lori Schifrin, Michael Bruel, and

Tom Oblatz for housing walkie-talkies. Every season, we also sponsor a readiness drill in the park, aided by the San Rafael Fire Department. March 3rd, volunteers practiced SPR techniques with the SRFD. If you are interested in joining us, our next radio drill is Saturday, June 2 at 8:30. Please contact Amy Likover at 415-450-1520, or [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com).

## Sidewalk Repair Program Update

Update from Talia Smith,  
City of San Rafael DPW

The City of San Rafael did the Sidewalk Lottery this May and sent out the following notification to all property owners that applied:

*“The Sidewalk Repair Program application period closed on Friday, April 27th. The City received 366 applications for FY 2017-18. Funding for the program will be appropriated according to a priority ranking determined by a random lottery. Due to high demand, the City doubled the funding for this year’s program and intends to accommodate at least 300 applicants, 150 more than previously planned. On May 2nd, Public Works Staff conducted the lottery and randomly assigned a priority ranking number to each application. The City will allocate funding for the program according to the priority ranking (1-366). If you have a low priority ranking based on the lottery, you may still be accepted into this year’s program.”*

*Again, we have doubled the funding for this year’s program in hopes of accommodating all applicants into this year’s program.*

*Public Works will be performing inspections for all applicants of the program. The inspection will detail what type of repair may be necessary. Repairs may vary between full replacement of the sidewalk or simple sidewalk shaving. The inspection will also determine whether curb or gutter or a tree is involved. Once the inspection is complete, you will receive a copy of the inspection which will detail the necessary sidewalk repair work. The inspection will also estimate the City cost-share and total cost to the property owner.*

*Inspections should be completed no later than early June. We request that you wait to ask any questions until after you receive your completed inspection. Please do not contact the contractors directly until you have received your completed inspection form from the City. Once inspections are complete, the City will be able to determine how many applicants can be supported by the program this year. Applicants will receive a final notification of whether they’ve been accepted into the program at that time. Thank you, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation in the first year of this new program.”*

We are excited that we were able to double the funding to kick-off the program. Fortunately, we believe there are several properties that will not require full removal and replacement, but only a sidewalk shaving. In those cases, the fix will be much cheaper and therefore our funding can go a lot further for the 366 applications. It is still my hope that we can support every property that applied!

Inspections began this week. We’re getting through the addresses fairly quickly (~20-30 per day), so I’m hopeful that we’ll be able to get completed inspection forms back to the property owners by June. After that, Van Midde and Coastside Concrete will coordinate with the property owners to do all repairs this summer.

If property owners have specific questions, they may call DPW. Full updates on the program can also be found at [www.cityofsanrafael.org/sidewalks](http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/sidewalks).





# Neighbors Roll Up Sleeves for Earth Day

by Gina Silvestri



GPNA wishes to thank all of the neighborhood volunteers who responded to our call and spent their morning on Saturday, April 21st working to clean up Gerstle Park. It was the first "Park-A-Month" program sponsored by the City of San Rafael. The City provided all of the tools & materials and neighbors worked hard weeding, planting flowers, spreading mulch, sifting sand, cleaning & painting. Snacks were provided by the GPNA and the Rotary Club of San Rafael. The park is looking good & ready for summer!



Photo on C St. courtesy of Phil Lewis

## Coyotes in Gerstle Park

by Sharon Barnett

GPNA Member

[www.marinnature.com](http://www.marinnature.com)

Whether you loathe or love the song dog, coyotes are here to stay. Learning to coexist with them might be possible if you get to know our newest neighbor. To the surprise of many, coyotes are omnivorous. They eat rodents such as mice, gophers and squirrels. Rabbits are also on the menu, as are fruits, plants, mushrooms, insects, and carrion. Coyotes often mate for life and are committed parents. Though wary of humans, they are curious and intelligent. This behavior along with their varied diet attracts them to compost, trash, pet food and pets left outside. Keep your cats and dogs inside or on a leash, and your yard tidy and this clever canine will keep a safe distance- to the benefit of you and the coyote. A shout out to Marin County's very own Project Coyote. Founded by Camilla Fox, Project Coyote offers helpful suggestions for you to coexist with Marin's once long lost wild dog. <http://www.projectcoyote.org/>

## Board Members

Gina Silvestri, *President*

Josselyn Robertson, *Vice President*

Ross Parmenter, *Treasurer*

Denise Van Horn, *Recording Secretary*

Sandra Luna, *Corresponding Secretary*

Tom Heinz, *Member*

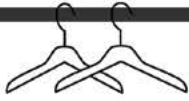
Alicia diVittorio, *Member*



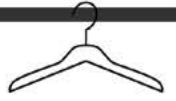


# GERSTLE PARK

Neighborhood Association



## GARAGE SALE!



Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 9AM - 2PM

### OPTION 1: GARAGE SALE AT YOUR HOME - \$20

Registration includes: Use of (1) yard sign, inclusion of your sale on the official GPNA Garage Sale Map w/highlights of a few of your major sale items, advertisements on Craigslist & the Marin IJ classifieds, and on posters throughout the neighborhood. NOTE: Yard signs will be available for pick up at 110 San Rafael Ave. Thurs., 6/14 and Fri., 6/15 from 10AM to 8PM (Odessa tel: 415.310.8022). After the sale (no later than Sunday) please return the signs back to the same address for reuse next year.

### OPTION 2: GARAGE SALE AT GERSTLE PARK - \$30

For just \$10 more, you can be guaranteed sales! You will be assigned a minimum 10' x 10' area in Gerstle Park. Buyers will be able to shop multiple sales in one stop. Ideal for Gerstle Park neighbors who don't get a lot of foot traffic on Garage Sale Day. Large signage will be posted outside Gerstle Park (no need to pick up a yard sign), in addition to mention of your items on Map & advertising on Craigslist + Marin IJ. **APPLY EARLY - FIRST COME FIRST SERVED, SPACE IS LIMITED. TABLES NOT PROVIDED.**

Name:  Phone:

Address:

Email:

Please describe items for sale in 15 words or less:

#### GARAGE SALE REGISTRATION:

- At your home ..... \$20
- In Gerstle Park ..... \$30

#### RENEW YOUR ANNUAL GPNA MEMBERSHIP

- 2018 Membership REGULAR ..... \$20
- 2018 Membership SENIOR ..... \$10

#### TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:

Complete and return form + check to:  
GPNA, Attn: Garage Sale  
PO Box 150644 San Rafael Ca 94915

Registration also available online at:  
[www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)

**DEADLINE: TUESDAY JUNE 12TH!!!**

