



WINTER 2019

GERSTLE PARK Neighborhood Association



GPNA Calendar

- 1/28 Annual Meeting
- 4/13 Spring Fling Egg Hunt
- 4/20 Park-A-Month Gerstle Park
- 6/15 Garage Sale Day
- 8/6 National Night Out

GPNA ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, January 28, 2019

The Elks Lodge
1312 Mission Avenue
 6:00 - 9:00 pm
 Cash bar opens at 5pm

Agenda: Learn more about what's going on in the neighborhood, vote for new board members, enjoy the "Year in Review" slideshow, and hear from special guest speakers Mayor Gary Phillips, and representatives from the SRPD and SRFD

- 6:00-7:00 pm Meet & greet; homemade refreshments
- 7:00-7:45 pm The Year in Review slideshow & reports
- 7:45-9:00 pm Guest Speakers and Q&A

2019 Board Candidates

Odessa Shekar



Odessa is 5th generation Californian, raised in Marin since she was 8 years old. She attended St. Patrick's and Redwood High before heading to Germany for a year abroad. While earning a degree in Architecture at the

University of Oregon, her affection for photography and the outdoors deepened. She spent 8 years after college as a designer in architecture firms, and then launched her own photography and graphic design business in 2010. Since becoming a mother in 2012 she has focused on her family and volunteering in the community and in her daughters' schools. After moving to Gerstle Park in 2014 she started Thursday Night Potlucks in the park, as a way to meet new neighbors and friends. They continue to grow every year, where many friendships have been forged. She loves her little yellow house and the energy of the Gerstle Park neighborhood! She and her husband, Kim, enjoy taking their two daughters out in the neighborhood, and on the many adventures we have here and beyond to West Marin, Russian River, Sonoma and many more.

Jennifer Horta



Jennifer was born and raised on the Peninsula, leaving briefly to skip down to La Jolla for sports and academics at UCSD. She made her way right back to the Bay Area first chance she had in 2010 to work on her masters in Psychology at USF. While completing her hours for licensure, her passion for families grew and she started a small psychotherapy agency. Real-life experience intensified when Jennifer married, had her first child, and began searching for a place to settle in a tricky market. Pictures online lured her to a beautiful old Victorian on the north side of the Golden Gate Bridge, but it wasn't until after signing the dotted line that she discovered the beautiful community she inherited with the house. Sparked by other neighborhood efforts, Jennifer and her husband Michael have started creating neighborhood-inspired gear, with some of the proceeds going to community organizations. Since moving to Gerstle Park in 2015, Jennifer's focus has turned from mostly professional to mostly home. With that has come tight friendships and a seriously fun look towards maintaining and building on what is already so wonderful in San Rafael. The neighborhood events in Gerstle Park have created a special atmosphere for Jennifer and her family, so she is eager to join the Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association Board and aid in the preservation of those activities for others.

President's Column

by Gina Silvestri



Happy New Year and Happy Winter, everyone! If your home is anything like mine, you appreciate the rain but cross your fingers that the sump pump in the basement doesn't fail!

As we prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting it has been fun to think back on 2018 and all that we accomplished as a neighborhood in the last year. Join us on Mon, Jan 28th (6-9pm at the Elks Lodge) when we premier this year's video slideshow "2018: A Year in the Neighborhood", or view it on the website after that. The meeting will also be a great chance to hear about plans for 2019 as well as an opportunity to hear quick updates from the various City departments.

The highlight of my year was definitely PORCHFEST. Those of us who live here know what a special place this is...and after that fall day it feels like all the county does as well. At the Annual Meeting we will discuss the future of PorchFest as well as all of the other annual neighborhood events, including the Annual Picnic.

One thing that I had hoped to be able to report by the time I wrote this column was the completion of the City's 2018 Sidewalk Improvement Program. I have been told that over 50 property owners in Gerstle Park will be participating in that program and work should begin in March 2019. Check the City's website for updates. GPNA has continued to wait for the City's promised Tree Policy. We are told that is also coming soon, but I was pleased to learn this week that the City has hired GPNA member Ray Moritz and his company Urban Forestry Assoc.. as their consulting arborist.

A couple GPNA Board changes to report: GPNA Board Member & Treasurer, Ross Parmenter completes his 2nd term of service to the neighborhood this month. Thanks for all the time and energy, Ross!! Board Member Tom Heinz steps into the role of Treasurer. I am pleased to announce that GPNA member and graphic designer Odessa Shekar has agreed to run for a seat on the board. We look forward to having her voice and talents on the Board.

Stay safe and dry out there!

Halloween 2018 Results

House Decorating Contest



GPNA wishes to thank all who contributed to making Halloween in Gerstle Park simply SPOOKTACULAR. The neighborhood was glowing, and so were the faces of all of the kids. See www.gerstlepark.com for

beautiful photos taken by neighbor and volunteer photographer Cynthia Cushman. There were an impressive 15 homes nominated this year for review by our 5 secret judges. GPNA is pleased to announce that the winners of the 2018 Halloween Decorating Contest:

- 1st Place - 508 D Street
- 2nd Place - 217 Bayview St.
- 3rd Place - 101 Marin Street
- 4th Place - 12 Ross Street
- 5th Place - 31 Clorinda Ave.
- 6th Place - 201 Marin Street
- 7th Place - 11 Marin Street

PRIZES GENEROUSLY DONATED BY:

- Casa Manana Restaurant
- Miracle Mile Cafe
- Passion Nails
- Riley Street Art Supply
- Sandra Luna Real Estate
- Shineology Car Wash



Emergency Preparedness

READY Gerstle Park

by Amy Likover



Nine GPNA volunteers house walkie-talkies in your neighborhood and practice radio protocol and readiness on a monthly basis. Dave, Lori, Mike, Tom, Don, Matt, Michael, Dan and I also communicated during this

stormy week, to check areas in the neighborhood for potentially dangerous situations. If you would like to serve as an alternate for our radio communications, or perhaps receive CERT emergency training, please contact info@gerstlepark.com

Tips from READY Gerstle Park:

1. Know how to utilize the manual function of your electric garage door. Garage doors were a big issue during the fires. Open garage doors suck in the flames. Closed garage doors lock people in and lock out rescuers.
2. The following 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.

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

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

2nd Annual Hugo Landecker Memorial French Broom Pull



Gerstle Park Redwood Grove, Dec 2, 2018

What is Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods?

by Amy Likover, Federation Chair



The purpose of the Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods is to facilitate communication and interaction among the neighborhoods as represented by their associations and individuals south of Puerto Suello Hill. We promote effective and

regular communication with local

government entities and agencies, acting as an advocate of significant multi-neighborhood issues before governmental bodies. Drawing from the resources of the community, our goal is to address neighborhood problems, specifically civic issues. The Federation also supports neighborhood organizations by providing them with resources more efficiently obtained by the Federation or that are available from other members of the Federation. We are available to assist groups of residents in their efforts to set up a neighborhood association in areas where no associations exist. The Fed meets monthly with City officials, and holds monthly general meetings. Dates are on our website. There is a nominal fee to belong to the Fed (\$10 individuals, \$25 neighborhood and civic groups,) and the membership form is online at www.fedsrn.org. Save the date: February 27th, for our first Annual Meeting with the Mayor and County Supervisors Connolly, Rice and Rodoni. Details on website soon!



Treasurer's Corner

by Ross Parmenter

- Beginning Balance (10.15.2018) - \$17,479.47
- Expenses - \$2,038.45
- Income - \$960.00
- Ending Balance (12.31.2018) - \$16,401.02*
- MarinLink Balance - \$13,030.00
(not included in Bank balance)

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

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*

Mushrooms Galore

in "French Broom-Land"!

by Amy Likover



Many of you, when work is done and nature calls to clear the brain, retreat to the hills to pull invasive species. On the small hillside triangle wedged between D Street and Wolfe Grade Road, there is an area GPNA volunteers planted with

small City-contributed manzanita bushes, some of which still thrive. To my surprise, while pulling invasive French broom seedlings last weekend, I found scores of sturdy mushrooms pushing through the earth. On one small patch, the fungi had actually pushed out asphalt. Consider that beautiful reset of nature! A Gerstle Park neighbor stopped to thank me. When I answered, "This is good for the soul," she replied, "And good for the soil."

Please contact info@gerstlepark.com if you can ID the mushroom species, and if you'd like to join me on a hillside some day this winter.



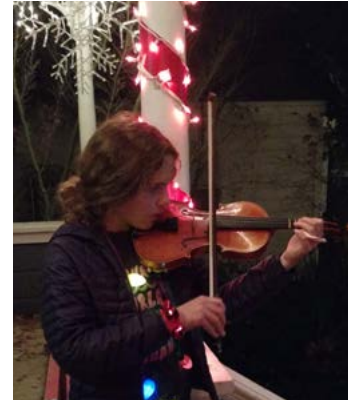
Mushrooms found on Gerstle Park trails

Christmas Caroling

Dec 13, 2018



Santa and the Caroling crew





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!