



WINTER 2020

# GERSTLE PARK Neighborhood Association



## GPNA Calendar

- 3/19 1 Hour 2 Get Ready class
- 4/4 Spring Fling Egg Hunt
- 6/20 Garage Sale Day
- 8/4 National Night Out
- 9/20 San Rafael PorchFest

## PorchFest Wins 4 Awards

Gina Silvestri



On Feb 18th, the City Council presented our own PorchFest committee members with 4 CalFest awards including Best Event Photo, Best Poster for Sale, Best Event Program, and Best Wearable Art. Event Manager

Brian Auger nominated PorchFest 2019 to CalFest, a trade organization representing events throughout California and Nevada. An award was also presented to Gerstle Park resident Adam Violante for his West End Village Celebration. Congrats to all!



The San Rafael PorchFest Team at the City Council Award Ceremony



Brian Auger, Gina Silvestri and Alicia DiVittorio showing a Save the Date poster for PorchFest 2020

## The Bunny is Coming!



SAT 4/4

## egg hunt

For kids under 9  
10am sharp start!



GERSTLE  
PARK  
PLAYGROUND

- ✿ Egg Dyeing
- ✿ Golden Egg Prizes
- ✿ Muffins + Coffee



A free community event hosted by your

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

Powered by Volunteers





# President's Column

by Gina Silvestri



Happy 2020, neighbors. The year has gotten off to a great start. We had an information packed Annual Meeting at the Elks Lodge on January 27th. There were lively exchanges with Mayor Gary Phillips, Police Chief Diana Bishop, SFRD Emergency Manager Quinn Gardner, as well as representatives from DPW and the County of Marin. We also voted in 2 new GPNA Board Members – warm welcomes to Kim McGinnis and Michael Bruel (see more on them in this newsletter). We began the evening with a social hour in the Elks Bar and took a break from business to premier the annual musical slideshow “2019: A Year in the Neighborhood” (watch now at gerstlepark.com).

In early February we received news from the City of San Rafael that PorchFest received 4 (!) first place awards from CalFest, a trade organization which represents community festivals, historical celebrations, sporting events, visual and performing arts festivals, ethnic events, parades, fairs throughout California and Nevada. The PorchFest planning committee was presented with these awards at the 2/18 City Council Meeting. Many thanks to everyone in the neighborhood who played a part in making PorchFest such a success!

PorchFest is one of the many volunteer-powered events sponsored by the GPNA throughout the year. We encourage all owners and renters in Gerstle Park to join us (\$20 annually/\$10 seniors) and get more involved.



Phil Milner, Brian Auger, Gina Silvestri, Kim McGinnis at the Annual Meeting on Jan 27, 2020



Mayor Gary Phillips speaks to our community at the Annual Meeting on Jan 27, 2020



Mayor Gary Phillips with PorchFest organizer Tom Oblatz, left. San Rafael Emergency Manager, Quinn Gardner, right. Annual Meeting on Jan 27, 2020



Board Members Jennifer Horta, Alicia DiVittorio and Denise Van Horn at the Annual Meeting on Jan 27, 2020

## Graphic Help Needed

*Is Graphic Design in your wheel house?*

GPNA is looking for a member who can help us with volunteer graphic design, including quarterly newsletter layout, flyers & neighborhood posters for events.

Please email Gina at [info@gerstlepark.com](mailto:info@gerstlepark.com) for more information.

# Meet Your Neighbor: Grant Saysette

by Sandra Luna



Once you've had two addresses in our beloved Gerstle Park, you can definitely call yourself a Gerstle Parker. Grant and his wife, Nicole, meet this criteria. Having lived on C Street since 2013, they

are moving to a new address closer to the park and west of D Street. They have two wonderful kids whom they plan on raising here. Being able to walk around the neighborhood, make friends and see other families out is one of the things Grant likes best about our neighborhood. "One of my favorite events is National Night Out and I've helped with that event. I love it, everyone seems to have a great time."



*National Night Out 2018 with Firefighter Grant!*

Grant is a Marin County local, was born in Novato where Nicole is also from and his parents still reside. Grant also is part of the B Team, the neighborhood group who spearheaded the Albert Park playground renovation. If you haven't gone over to the park and seen the transformation, put it on your list.

He became a firefighter in 2009 and joined San Rafael Firehouse #51 in 2012. Nicole is employed at BioMarin, so both of them work locally and staying local is their plan for the future. In their spare time they explore the outdoors and particularly enjoy bike riding and visiting all the local lakes and watersheds. However, working on the home has taken up much of his precious time and he's looking forward to moving in soon.

If you see Grant walking in the neighborhood, make sure you say "hi," and thank him for serving at our local #51 Firehouse. He's protecting us all, and we're happy to have him as a (not-so-new), neighbor.

## 1 Hour 2 Get Ready



1 HOUR 2 GET READY – GERSTLE PARK

Thursday, March 19th @ 6-7:30 PM

B Street Community Center

618 B Street, Room 5

RSVP/details on Eventbrite and [SROES.org](http://SROES.org)

## Get CERT Trained this April!



This 3-day course will cover: Personal preparedness, medical operations, fire suppression, search and rescue, and CERT organization. The most important thing you can do in a disaster is take care of yourself and your loved ones- this class will help with that, and go one step further. Once you and those you care about are safe and well, you can use your skills as a CERT to help your community in emergency response. The cost is \$50 and includes a backpack, goggles, helmet and an identification card upon completion. There are scholarships available to cover the course fee. Contact [info@readymarin.org](mailto:info@readymarin.org) for scholarship information or if you need assistance.

This 3 day training will take place from

- 6:00-10:00 pm April 9th
- 8:30-5:00 pm April 11th
- 8:30-5:00 pm April 18th

Sign up now @ [readymarin.org](http://readymarin.org)

Learn more at [SROES.ORG](http://SROES.ORG)



# Welcome Michael & Kim!

Our new GPNA board members  
elected Jan 2020



Michael Bruel moved to the Bay Area back in 2000 to be near his twin brother Russell who moved out here from their native Miami a few years prior. He also moved out here to be closer to his biological family. He moved to Gerstle Park in

2008 when he and his wife Denisa were expecting their son Kryštof. They wanted to find a friendly community within walking distance to a beautiful park, hiking, and downtown San Rafael.

Michael can be spotted late at night, walking his dog Cody. He hopes to contribute with his wide range of interests around affordable housing, community organizing, technology, parenting, and the environment.

Michael has nineteen plus years of professional experience as a technologist for small businesses, and working for a variety of start-ups and enterprises where he wore a variety of hats has provided him with a broad range of skills. He has experience with web marketing, information technology administration, and customer support relationship management.

Michael has enjoyed participating in different neighborhood events like PorchFest, and helping keep our digital devices charged during the power outages in front of Muffin Mania during the power outages last fall.



Kim McGinnis, an Atlanta native, has lived in Marin County for over 30 years. She moved to Gerstle Park from the Dominican neighborhood 5 years ago when the last of her kids went to college. Her daughter and two sons went to Marin Catholic where

she was a key fundraiser and team parent.

For the last 8 years she has been the Vice President of the San Rafael Pacifics Baseball Club and is currently working for the Tiburon Mile Swim Race.

Kim moved to our neighborhood because of its trees, porches, sidewalks, and vibrant neighbors and dogs! She loves our active and engaged GPNA and would like to be a part of keeping our neighborhood cohesive, interactive and charming. She lives with her boyfriend, Dennis, at 26 Marin and hands out the big candy bars at Halloween!

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

# Board Members

Gina Silvestri, *President*

Alicia diVittorio, *Vice President*

Tom Heinz, *Treasurer*

Denise Van Horn, *Recording Secretary*

Sandra Luna, *Corresponding Secretary*

Josselyn Robertson, *Member*

Jennifer Horta, *Member*

\*Kim McGinnis, *Member*

\*Michael Bruel, *Member*

## "2019: A Year in the Neighborhood"

Watch the slideshow now at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)!

[HOME](#)

[BLOG](#)

[ABOUT GPNA](#)

[LOCAL RESOURCES](#)

[MORE..](#)



VIDEO: "2019: A YEAR IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD"



## Treasurer's Corner

by Tom Heinz

- *Beginning Balance (10.23.2019)* - \$17,034.94
- *Expenses* - \$2,968.35
- *Income* - \$2,926.82
- *Ending Balance (2.17.2020)* - \$16,993.41
- *Porchfest Acct Balance (2.17.2020)* - \$4,067.27
- *MarinLink Balance (2.17.2020)* - \$16,250.00  
(not included in Bank balance)

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





# Gerstle Park

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Annual Membership Form

*One vote per member. Membership year runs from Jan 1st - Dec 31st*

**Renew your membership online at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)!**

- RENEWAL**                      \_\_\_ # of Seniors 65+ @ \$10 ea.  
 **NEW MEMBER**                \_\_\_ # of Regular @ \$20 ea.

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

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

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

*all GPNA correspondence is via email*

Payment Type:     CHECK         CASH                      TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**The GPNA is powered by volunteers!**  
**Interested in Volunteering for the following events or committees?**

If so, please indicate with one or more checks.  
 Descriptions can be found at [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)

- PHOTOGRAPHY**
- GRAPHIC DESIGN**
- EVENTS**
  - Spring Fling Egg Hunt (weekend before Easter)
  - Neighborhood Garage Sale (June)
  - National Night Out - yearly neighborhood potluck in the park (2nd Tuesday of August)
  - PorchFest - 50+ bands play on porches throughout the neighborhood (September)
  - Halloween Decorating Contest (Judging)
  - French Broom Pull in the Open Space (December)
  - Christmas Caroling
- NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCACY IN SAN RAFAEL**
  - City Planning
  - Park Beautification
    - Gerstle Park     Albert Park
  - Planning & Development
- NEWSLETTER (QUARTERLY)**
  - Writing
  - Distribute newsletters to neighbors
- COMMITTEES**
  - Ready Gerstle Park, Emergency Preparedness
  - Community Tree Committee
  - Food Committee - help with planning, preparation & service for GPNA events

### Welcome to the GPNA!

PO BOX 150644 • San Rafael CA • 94915-0644 • [www.gerstlepark.com](http://www.gerstlepark.com)