

Gerstle Park

Neighborhood Association

Spring 2010



Membership Renewal

Since we are still at the beginning of a new year, this is a friendly reminder to all neighborhood members who have not renewed their membership. If you haven't renewed in a few years, don't worry, you are still welcomed into our club. You can find the membership form at the back of this newsletter or it is also posted on the website.

President's Message

A new year has begun and the board of the GPNA has been meeting, planning events and looking into important issues for our neighborhood in 2010. In January at the annual meeting, members were elected to the board and last years board presented 2009, a year in review. In February, the board met and voted on our officers. The following members have been voted to run the GPNA for the 2010 calendar year:

Bob Beyea, *President*

Stacey Laumann, *Vice President & Recording Secretary*

Tracy Loy, *Treasurer*

Jenny Tonyes, *Corresponding Secretary & Newsletter Layout*

Brandon Wagner, *Web Site & Membership*

Suzan Dexter, *Special Events*

The GPNA also has Hugo Landecker & Bob Urban who are not board members, but have specific duties that help the GPNA. Hugo is a Committee Chairman who works on Open Space concerns, City of San Rafael Planning & Development projects, neighborhood plans and city matters. Bob Urban is our quarterly newsletter editor and helps out on nearly every event we host. But, with all the names previously mentioned, we are still operating on a low count of people. The less volunteers we have, the less projects and causes we can get involved with. We really do have a fun group. We hold monthly meetings every 1st Wednesday of each month. All neighborhood members are welcome to attend. We also invite members to help a little or a lot with our yearly events. We welcome both.



Big Easter Event!

Save the date everyone! Our annual "Spring Fling" Easter event is almost upon us. This is a very popular and well attended event. This year's Easter event will be held on Saturday April 3rd. Expect to arrive in the playground of Gerstle Park before 10am because once the kids are let loose at 10am sharp to collect Easter eggs, the candy will disappear in a hurry. We will supply some coffee and muffins from our own Muffin Mania. We have had success with splitting the older & younger kids in separate areas in the park for safety reasons. Contests and awards will also be part of this event.

We Need You!

Want to help out in your neighborhood but are too busy to commit to being a GPNA Board Member? Why not volunteer a few hours at our events? The tasks are easy and the rewards are great! Spend a few hours volunteering and you'll be amazed at the amount of people you meet right in your own neighborhood.

The Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 3rd and we need three people to volunteer. Tasks include: set-up/clean-up, manage the jelly bean contest, help with the egg hunt. We would need you to be available from 8am until Noon (at the latest) on Saturday, April 3rd. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Suzan Dexter at 415.785.8213 or via email at suzandex@yahoo.com.

Dinners for Eight

Recipe for a fun neighborhood experience:

Date and time (May 15th at 6:30 PM)

1 host with entree

6 guests hungry for fellowship and good food

Add all ingredients in any size home and blend thoroughly. Serve leisurely.

The Dinners for Eight program is a wonderful way for members and friends of the Gerstle Park Neighborhood to get to know each other better. Often, as we are rushing to and from work and meetings, we don't take time to really get to know others in our community. This program provides that opportunity. The next dinner would take place in September, then again in January. Each event would take place on the 3rd Saturday of that month.

During the month of May you can sign up for this seasons Dinners for Eight as a single, or a couple. Volunteering as a host for one dinner, you will provide the entree at your home. As a guest, you will be assigned by the host one food item to bring to the host's home. Each guest also brings a beverage to share.

If you are interested in hosting or attending one of these events please contact Suzan Dexter at suzandex@yahoo.com.

Neighborhood Cleanup Day

On Saturday, March 27th the San Rafael Volunteers are sponsoring a neighborhood cleanup day here in Gerstle Park. This is an opportunity to volunteer for an hour or two cleaning up litter from the sidewalks, gutters and park areas in your neighborhood.

At 9 AM you can pick up bags, gloves and litter sticks in front of the Davidson Middle School gym at Woodland and Lindero and then either dispose of the trash in your own trash container, or bring it back to Davidson by noon of that day.

There will be music, beverages and snacks available at Davidson from 11 AM – 1 PM. This activity is co-hosted by the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Celebration. More information is available at <http://sanrafaelvounteers.org/onechavezday.php>.

Saturday, March 27
Davidson Middle School
9 AM - 1 PM



Short School

According to Dr. Michael Watenpaugh, Superintendent of the San Rafael City Schools: "We begin the year 2010 with our greatest level of student enrollment in thirty years! Our K-12 student enrollment continues to grow! We are already planning for the 2010 school year, anticipating our neighborhood enrollment growth will continue. Developmental preschool programs for students aged 3-5 will be placed at Short School. We also expect that two or more regular education Kindergarten and 1st Grade classes will also be part of the "new" Short School.

Given that school will open in late August 2010, we will begin some site preparations. The preparations will include:

- * Site repairs including pavement repair and removal of existing "older" play equipment that is out of compliance with current safety standards.
- * Installation of a small grassy area behind the main classroom building.
- * Evaluation & possible replacement of the large play structure.
- * Exterior wall and stucco repairs.
- * Interior paint, carpet & lighting improvements in 2 or more classrooms including some abatement work.
- * Minor student restroom renovations.
- * Possible electrical improvements to support technology.
- * Replacement of one mechanical system that has failed.

The educational program and the identification of which students will attend is currently being developed. Updates will be provided and the school board will invite the neighborhood to an Open House at Short School in the fall.

So from a neighborhood perspective, keeping Short School as a neighborhood school is good news. The GPNA will keep you informed as the year proceeds.

Disaster Prep for Spring

If you're anything like me, being prepared to support your family in a natural disaster is of primary importance. You've read the material, you know the basics... yet you have not prepared your home and car with the essentials!

Lets not wish we had taken the time to help ourselves. Haiti, Chile and Indonesia are all good reminders – and did you know there was a 6.5 quake just 24 miles off the coast of Eureka in January 2010? Now that's close to home!

The fact is, if a disaster strikes, we as a community will have to rely on each other for help and sustenance. It may take emergency workers many days to provide basic services.

I can't wait for the peace of mind. I promise to pledge 1 hour each week to get my home and family ready for a disaster. Join me in becoming prepared! Here's my program:

Week 1 – Store canned/dried food and 5 gallons of water per person.

Week 2 – Compile cooking/eating utensils. Store camping supplies in an accessible place.

Week 3 – Locate all utility shut-off valves and gather necessary tools.

Week 4 – Compile flashlights, tools, radio and sanitation supplies.

Week 5 – Get a mini-survival kits for car and workplace.

I've scheduled a free GET READY MARIN training at the Community Center (618 B Street) on Wednesday, April 21 for GPNA residents from 6:30 to 8:30pm. The class will help you and your family prepare for any type of disaster. Come socialize and receive an hour or so of disaster prep information. I'll bring a snack or dessert to share. RSVP to staceykate@hotmail.com.

If you want more substantial training, San Rafael's next CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) will begin in September. This is a 21-hour series that provides great hands on training and teaches a range of disaster skills. If you've already been CERT trained, good for you! A 6 hour refresher will be held on May 15th.

A Disaster Plan Worksheet, that you should keep with your disaster kit, provides essential phone lists, a checklist of simple preparations, and tips on how to survive a disaster is available from the City of San Rafael Office of Emergency Services. This office has lots of information on line to help you prepare. Visit <http://www.sroes.org> or call (415) 485-3111.



Greenwood Hiking Trail

The hiking trail that joins the end of Greenwood Ave and Upper Toyon has been there since about 1878. There is some very interesting history about this trail, for in the late 19th century it was part of the horsedrawn carriage service between San Rafael and Bolinas. Now it is a wonderful walking path that takes us to parts of our open space hiking roads and trails.

A group of Gerstle Park residents are researching the city records to determine how it can be assured that the Greenwood trail will always be available to residents. They have formed an email group of about 90 participants and they welcome anyone who would like to join them in their efforts to preserve open space in Gerstle Park. If you are interested contact Hugo Landecker at clandecker@saber.net.



Brightening the Entry to Gerstle Park

The unsightly French Broom was removed, and the area was planted with wildflowers and hundreds of bulbs. What a difference this has made. Now the bulbs are coming up and the wildflowers have begun to sprout.

The GPNA gives special thanks to all the volunteers that participated. They did a fantastic job!

Cleanup Starts at Home - Recycling Tips

Recycling is a process which involves reusing materials. A recyclable product is turned back into a raw form that can be used to create a new and different product. Not only are natural resources limited, but recycling efforts can significantly reduce additional waste that will not only harm the planet, but future generations as well.

When thinking of recycling, many may not know the proud history of our county. In 1980, Marin Sanitary Service designed and built the Marin Recycling Center, initiating the first countywide curbside collection program to operate in the United States. With that in mind, it's hard not to feel duty and responsibility to carry on this legacy.

To celebrate 30 years of Marin Recycling Center's service to our community, here is a short list of items to keep in mind before dropping them into your garbage container.

Things you CAN put in a recycle bin:

- Newspaper
- White paper
- Green, brown and clear glass
- Corrugated cardboard
- Paperboard such as cereal boxes, shoeboxes
- Plastic bottles
- Gable-top paper cartons such as milk cartons
- Metal food cans
- Aluminum beverage cans
- Aluminum foil (no food residue)
- Six-pack rings
- Magazines
- Junk mail and catalogs

Things you CAN'T put in a recycle bin:

- Yogurt cups
- Margarine containers
- Frozen food trays
- Plastic wrap
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Phone books
- Stamps and stickers in junk mail
- Pizza boxes
- Plastic bottles that contain oil or hazardous substances

Gerstle Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA) Membership Form

Please complete the information below and return with your check to:

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

Membership year runs from January 1st - December 31st

INDIVIDUAL: One Voting Member - \$15/year (\$10 seniors age 65+)

HOUSEHOLD: Two Voting Members - \$20/year (\$15 seniors age 65+)

☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL

☐ CHECK ☐ CASH

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

Do you wish to receive our quarterly newsletter via email instead of home delivery? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Would you like to be included on our email distribution list? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Are you interested in volunteering with the GPNA? ☐ YES ☐ NO

GET READY

- SAN RAFAEL -

Disaster Preparedness Class

The people of Marin County face a multitude of hazards including: earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, and landslides. To address these public safety risks, a simple and *free* two-hour emergency preparedness program is being offered to all households in Marin County through the **Get Ready** Household Disaster Preparedness Program.

THE BENEFITS OF TAKING THE CLASS:

- Gain the necessary information to protect you and your family during a disaster.
- Learn how to create emergency supply kits for your home, work, and car.
- Learn how to become a survivor and feel empowered to take care of yourself and those around you.

COME AND TAKE THE CLASS:

When: April 21, 2010 (Wednesday)
6:30pm snacks & socialize
7:00– 8:30pm presentation & discussion

Where: San Rafael Community Center
618 B Street, room 5

For more information please contact:

Stacey Laumann
415.272.2073 or staceykate@hotmail.com

